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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Between Saipan and Tinian, which island should the U.S. Air Force choose for its alternate airfield in the event that Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is unavailable?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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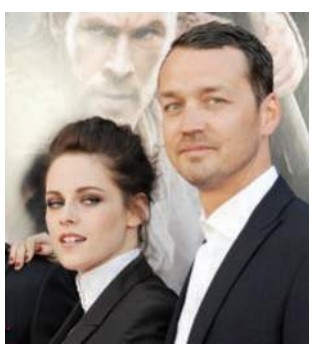
BUSINESS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says drought will push up food prices in 2013. ➤ PAGE 17

WORLD

Syrian troops rush dozens of tanks and reinforcements toward Aleppo. ➤ PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE



Kristen Stewart admits that she cheated on her boyfriend, Robert Pattinson. ➤ PAGE 23

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$360 parole for Guam travel draws concern

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth-only worker permit holder was surprised and dismayed to learn that she needs to apply for a $360 "advance parole" to travel to Guam for a badminton tournament instead of the free "parole," which was what she was preparing for when she showed up yesterday for her appointment at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Garapan.

At least two other CW permit holders who are supposed to go to Guam for the same tournament said yesterday they will back out from the trip, citing a "costly" application process that they found out was just recently implemented.

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Senate poised to support transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate is poised to adopt a resolution as early as Wednesday supporting the extension of the federalization transition period beyond Dec. 31, 2014, so that the CNMI will have continued access to foreign workers.

» FAS-like status recommendation, HR 1466 still pending

Under the federalization law, the foreign worker population in the CNMI should be zeroed out after 2014. But the law allows for a five-year extension, to be decided by the U.S. Labor secretary in consultation with the Homeland Security secretary and the CNMI governor.

Manglona said the resolution, which is now being drafted, will also include the Senate's long-

See EXTENSION on Page 4

World War II veterans, retired U.S. Navy second class electrician Jesse Loma, 91, right, waves to the crowd below, while retired second class carpenters mate Claud Martin Jr., 87, left, looks on during a wreath laying at American Memorial Park yesterday afternoon, led by nine visiting veterans including also those from the Vietnam War. Martin was a member of the Seabees 56th Battalion, while Loma was aboard a destroyer during the invasion of the islands during World War II.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WWII, VIETNAM WAR VETS VISIT MARIANAS

'It's an honor to walk these grounds'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

It took 69 years for retired U.S. Navy second class electrician Jesse Loma to finally step foot on Tinian and Saipan since seeing these islands only from afar aboard a destroyer during World War II, but he said yesterday it was worth the wait.

"I'm glad to be here. I was not expecting it would be like this. …This is the first time I've participated in this kind of ceremony," Loma told *Saipan Tribune* during a wreath laying at American Memorial Park led by nine visiting veterans—including two from World War II and four from Vietnam War—yesterday afternoon.

Loma said he was only 22 and was aboard a destroyer that was bombarding the islands during the 1943 invasion. He is now 91.

"My daughter asked me, 'If there's one World War II place I would like to

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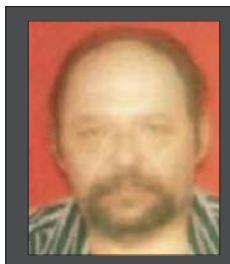

Friedle

Friedle still missing

Former Aqua Resort Club executive chef Hubert Siegfried Friedle remains missing as of yesterday, according to police spokesman Jason Tarkong.

Tarkong said initial police investigation indicated no possible foul play behind Friedle's disappearance.

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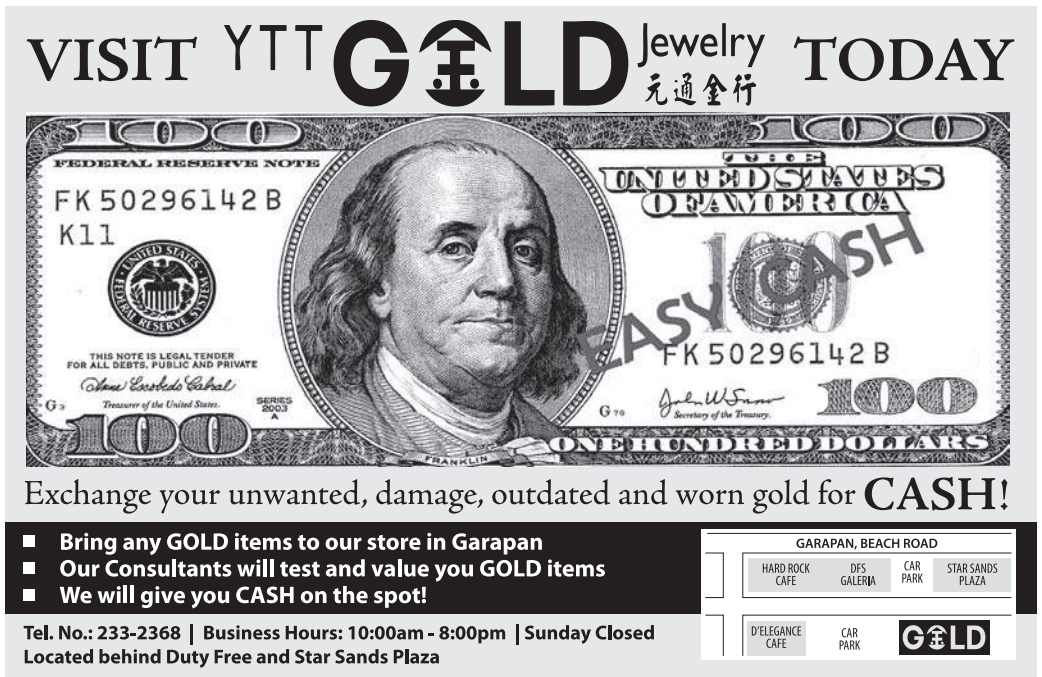
Local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OAG slams Boston law firm's alleged pad-and-cut tactic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government slammed the Retirement Fund's Boston-based counsel yesterday for allegedly resorting to "pad-and-cut tactics" for demanding $750,937.82 in payment and then reducing that to $488,882, passing it off as a 36-percent "discount."

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to further reduce the $488,882 being asked by the Brown Rudnick law firm to just $112,640.67.

"It is simply unreasonable to charge the retirees nearly half a million dollars for Brown Rudnick's decision to play the odds in Chapter 11 [bankruptcy petition]," said Sablan in court papers.

The Boston law firm's original application claims that the Fund owes it $750,937.82 as compensation for professional services and reimbursement for expenses covering the period of April 17, 2012, when the Chapter 11 was filed, through June 13, 2012.

The CNMI government, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and two members of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors objected to the amount, describing it as unreasonable.

The OAG wants the court to reduce Brown Rudnick's compensation and reimbursement by 85 percent—to just $112,640.67.

Jeremy B. Coffey of the Brown Rudnick LLP law firm earlier this week notified the court that additional negotiations between Brown Rudnick and the Fund further cut the total bill to $488,822, which translates to a further discount of $277,115.66 or 36 percent from the already discounted amounts.

In court documents filed by the OAG yesterday, Sablan said that Brown Rudnick's voluntary "discount" appears to be nothing more than "conSciousness of guilt."

Sablan said that after padding its billings with excessive and unnecessary services, the law firm now tries to relieve its conscience by providing the Fund with a 36-percent discount and requesting that the court to overrule all objections.

"That does not sit right with the government. This pad-and-cut tactic may be the way of business in corporate bankruptcy, but when it comes to the already limited pool of funds for the current and future retirees, it is simply unreasonable," she said.

Moreover, Sablan said, the law firm does not identify which services the 36-percent discount serves to exclude.

"By applying the discount, Brown Rudnick attempts to dodge the bullet of answering the specific questions raised in the government's objections," she said.

Sablan cited that Brown Rudnick claimed it spent 45.2 hours and charged the retirees $21,470 for drafting a one-and-a-half page boilerplate letter and a similarly simple and short reply letters.

"Should the discount be construed as excluding these letters from the requested compensation?" Sablan asked.

A hearing on the fees being demanded by Brown Rudnick and other lawyers involved in the bankruptcy proceedings will be held at 9:30am today, Friday.

Judge rejects plea deal for 3 cousins in beating of man, assaulting his parents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday as too lenient the plea agreement offered by the CNMI government to three cousins who are accused of beating up a man and assaulting the latter's parents.

Camacho said he finds the recommended sentence disproportionate to the crimes committed by Joaquin V. Sanchez, Kelvin C. Sanchez, and John Carlo Guartiano Sanchez, despite their lack of criminal history and other reasons offered by the government.

"Given that the victim was clearly outnumbered and the alleged facts suggest the possibility of other aggravating factors, the court is not satisfied that a short jail sentence, probation, and community service will serve the ends of justice," the judge said.

The plea bargain seeks suspended sentences that would have required the defendants to spend just 12 to 17 days in jail, with credit for time served.

Police said the beating happened on Jan. 12, 2012, in Dandan.

Joaquin Sanchez was charged with assault and battery, riot, and disturbing the peace. Kelvin Sanchez and John Carlo Sanchez were charged with riot, disturbing the peace, and two counts of assault and battery.

Under the plea deal, Joaquin Sanchez and John Carlo Sanchez would plead guilty to assault and battery while Kelvin Sanchez will plead guilty to two counts of assault and battery.

For Joaquin Sanchez, the plea deal recommends a sentence of one year in prison, all suspended except for 12 days, with 10 days credit for time served; one year probation; a fine of $250; and 50 hours of community service.

In John Carlo Sanchez's case, the plea bargain recommends one year in prison, all suspended except for 15 days, with 10 days credit for time served; one year probation; a fine of $250; and 50 hours of community service.

For Kelvin Sanchez, the plea agreement recommends one year in prison, all suspended except for 17 days, with 10 days credit for time served; one year probation; a fine of $250; and 50 hours of community work service.

Lifting of 8-hour austerity comes with responsibility

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos issued yesterday a directive lifting an eight-hour austerity to bring the government's work hours from the current 64 to 72 biweekly beginning July 29 up to Sept. 30, before being restored to full 80 hours starting Oct. 1.

But with the restoration of eight hours comes responsibility.

"While I am pleased to be able to lift austerity, albeit partially, I remind all government employees that we are all public servants entrusted to deliver the needs of the community as a whole and as such, we should work diligently during the eight additional hours to improve services to the public and do our part to improve the economy," Inos said in his one-page directive to departments and agencies.

» Inos issues 72-hour work directive

Under a 64-hour work biweekly, many government employees do not report for work every Friday.

But because it's going to be 72 hours biweekly, employees will now be also working every other Friday.

Next Friday, Aug. 3, will be a work day.

Every "payday Friday" will be the only "austerity Friday" until Sept. 30.

Inos confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that a decision had already been made to go back to 72 hours starting next week.

That directive, issued yesterday, said effective pay period beginning on July 29 or pay period no. 17, work hours will increase from 64 hours to 72 hours biweekly.

Inos

Inos said all department and activity heads are advised to immediately review their fund balances for the remainder of the fiscal year to confirm the availability of funds to cover the cost for the increase in work hours.

"No department or agency may increase work hours if fund balances are insufficient to cover the additional eight working hours for the remainder of the fiscal year," Inos said.

He said he and the governor thank government employees "for their partnership and patience during these trying economic times."

Ray Bermudes, a 54-year-old employee at the Saipan Mayor's Office, gave a sigh of relief yesterday that the government will increase his work hours. "Working and getting paid only 64 hours is creating hardships for families. I am thankful it will be 72 next week. It's better than staying at 64 hours," Bermudes told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the American Memorial Park yesterday.

Bermudes said he has been "serving the people for 23 years," and having work hour cuts for almost two years is just hard to bear. But he said at least he still has a job.

To cope with work hour reductions and cut utility bills, his family limits the use of their air conditioner from eight hours to two hours every night. They also reduced their vehicle use to save gas, whose prices have skyrocketed in recent years.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said it's welcome news that government employees will now have 72 hours work biweekly but he said the government should continue to streamline its operations, including not filling vacant positions "for political reasons."

"Two years ago, we had a government shutdown because the Senate had the belief that we need to streamline the government but [we must] begin with the 'all others' or operations, and not take from the pocket of government employees," he said.

Inos said the government has $900,000 to $1 million to cover the additional eight work hours biweekly starting next week.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said her committee will ensure 80 hours will be restored in fiscal year 2013. The committee is reviewing the 2013 budget bill, which the Senate will act on during its session on Wednesday.

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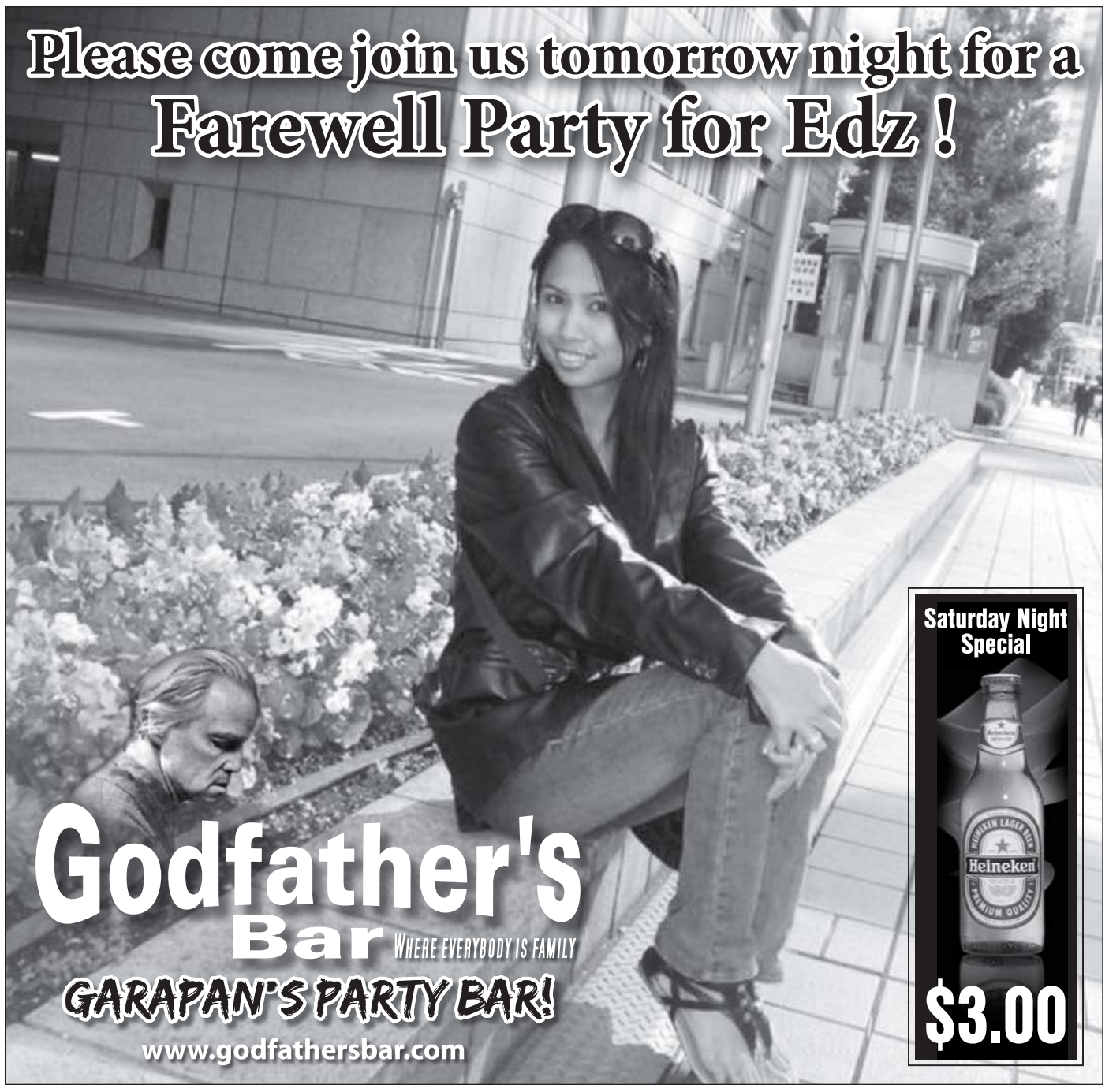

CULTURAL CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Rota Chamorro Cultural Center is offering free lessons on making *amot monglo maipi, alaguan haga'af, aliling ni ma lechi niyuk,* and *tia'o* this Saturday from 9am to 4pm with lunch break between 11:30am and 12:30pm. These activities will be held at the backside of the Rota Community & Cultural Affairs Office Compound. Bring your children so they too can learn the traditional ways of Chamorros and Carolinians.

On Saipan, the activities at the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center include making *champuladu* and coconut leaf weaving for Carolinian Mass dance. Lessons are from 9:30am to noon at 1213 Capitol Hill Road, next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office building.

These activities are sponsored by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Rota Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Rota Mayor's Office, and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call Beck Kani on Rota at 532-9350/5562. On Saipan call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visiting veterans, including two from World War II and four from Vietnam War, along with their relatives, pose for a group photo during a wreath laying at American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

HONOR

From Page 1

visit, what would it be?' I said 'Tinian.' I told myself Saipan is only nearby so if I could go to Tinian then I could go to Saipan too," Loma, of Wisconsin, said.

He chose Tinian because he remembers the island at the time looking like an area in Wisconsin during the planting season. His daughter, Deb Loma Hoffman, is with her in this trip to Guam, Tinian, and Saipan.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Andrew Taynor Jr., a Vietnam War veteran, said "it's humbling" to be in a place that almost seven decades ago was a scene of heavy fighting between two determined forces.

"Just to realize what happened here, you have two determined forces, fighting tooth and nail… It's an honor to walk these grounds," Taynor said.

This is Taynor's second visit to Tinian and Saipan.

He was here last year with a friend, retired U.S. Marine Maj. Rick Spooner, who was part of the 2nd U.S. Marine Division that, along with the 4th Marine Division, invaded Japanese-held Saipan on June 15, 1944. Spooner had a recent stroke so he had to stay back, but he plans to visit again in March 2013.

Taynor and Loma are just two of the nine veterans currently on Saipan, after visiting Guam and Tinian, as part of the Military Historical Tours.

Besides Loma, the other World War II veteran is second class carpenters mate Claud Martin Jr., 87. Martin served as a member of the Seabees 56th Battalion.

The three other Vietnam War veterans besides Taynor are retired USMC Col. Richard Blanchfield, retired USMC Lt. Col. Richard Duff Jr., and U.S. Air Force Capt. Ralph Mobley.

Also with them are U.S. Navy veterans Richard Hillary and James Rabon Jr., and U.S. Marines Cpl. Shayne Jarosz.

The veterans are with their relatives—daughters and wives.

CNMI historian Don Farrell and Pacific Development Inc. director Gordon Marciano were among the individuals who gave the group a tour of Tinian and Saipan.

PAROLE

From Page 1

One other said he will still try his luck to be able to go to Guam.

A CW permit holder with the initials "M.M." and has been legally on Saipan since 1995, was selected by the Northern Marianas Badminton Association to represent the group in an Aug. 3 to 4 badminton tournament in Guam. She said she thought she only has to apply for "parole," which is free of charge.

She said CW permit holders and those without B1/B2 visas were previously allowed to go to Guam after being granted "parole."

"The USCIS officer said there were changes in the travel policy only recently. I wish they made an announcement about those changes. All along, I thought advance parole is only for travel to non-U.S. [territory]. I was already hopeful that I will be able to represent the CNMI in that tournament and at the same time see Guam for a few days," she told *Saipan Tribune* hours after her appointment with USCIS.

She said she asked the USCIS officer whether she could use the "advance parole" she already has, which is still valid until Sept. 12, 2012. She used that advance parole to travel to the Philippines.

"The USCIS officer said this is a different one, and I have to apply for another advance parole. She said there's a new policy for travel to Guam, and that's to apply for advance parole," she said. She does not have a tourist or B1/B2 visa.

She said an approved advance parole that's valid for multiple entries to Guam may be worth the $360, but she's told there's no guarantee that the application will be approved or even if it were approved, it could only be for a limited period.

Macoi Aguda and Hapi Gabriel, both CW permit holders, also have Infopass appointments in the next few days, supposedly to apply for "parole" for their planned travel to Guam for the same badminton tournament.

They said they are in the same situation as "M.M." and they will most likely to be told to apply for an advance parole instead.

"I'm disappointed that one has to pay $360 to apply for travel to Guam for only a few days. It wasn't like that before," said Gabriel, adding that he is no longer planning to go to Guam for the tournament.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday it's "absolutely unacceptable" to ask people to pay $360 for an application to travel to Guam.

"This is hard on foreign workers from the CNMI, and Guam is not that far to begin with. USCIS changed its policy without asking for comments from those that will be affected," he said.

On June 29, USCIS added Question No. 55, among other things, to its "questions and answers" for the CNMI Transitional Worker Classification. Question number 55 asks, "Is CW status valid in any part of the United States other than the CNMI?"

CW status is a "CNMI-only nonimmigrant status." It does not authorize entry to Guam or to any other part of the U.S., USCIS says.

Travel or attempted travel from the CNMI to another part of the U.S. without the appropriate visa or other authorization is a violation of CW status, it adds.

The lengthy answer to this question includes procedures on how to receive USCIS approval in advance of travel to Guam or any part of the U.S.

The procedure has remained almost the same for those with valid B nonimmigrant visa. B visa holders with CW permits, for example, only need to apply for and be granted parole to be able to travel to Guam.

For CW permit holders without B visa, the procedure is different.

USCIS says: "If the CW alien is not described in the above bullet point (i.e., the alien is not eligible to travel under a visa waiver program to the part of the United States to which he or she desires to travel, and does not possess a valid 'B' nonimmigrant visa), the alien will need to file a Form I-131 with the USCIS Guam Office to obtain an advance parole document."

It added, "This document will be acceptable to CBP to permit the travel of the CW nonimmigrant in that nonimmigrant status to Guam and/or the rest of the United States, as appropriate, for a purpose and time appropriate for a B nonimmigrant visit, as described above. The ultimate decision whether to permit the travel is CBP's decision."

A separate USCIS page for I-131, application for travel document, says the purpose of the form is: "To apply for a reentry permit, refugee travel document or advance parole travel document, to include parole into the U.S. for humanitarian reasons."

The filing fee for Form I-131 is $360.

The full Q&A for the CW program, including Question # 55 on travel, is available at: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=34b462c1c3073310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=4d3314dd2b635210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD

More information about Form I-131 is available at: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=b11747a55773d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=7d316c0b4c3bf110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD.

EXTENSION

From Page 1

standing recommendation to Congress to grant alien workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 an immigration status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

He said the resolution will also include support for Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) HR 1466, which seeks CNMI-only resident status to certain groups, including foreign parents of minor U.S. citizens.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee, separately said yesterday that while the resolution is still being drafted, he supports the general idea of extending the transition period.

He said the Senate's recommendation to grant FAS-like status to long-term alien workers was not considered in the final regulations governing transitional foreign workers.

Hofschneider said the Senate would like the CNMI to have a stable workforce, so while there is still no decision to grant improved status to long-term foreign workers, he said it may be best to just extend the transition period.

He hopes the U.S. government will use that additional five-year period to decide on an improved status for foreign workers that the CNMI needs.

Under the Senate recommendation to Congress, there's an additional five-year waiting period or until 2013 before eligible foreign workers could apply for a FAS-like status.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Sablan, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce support extending the transition period, saying the CNMI needs more time to train resident workforce to take over the positions filled by foreign workers.

Close to 12,000 foreign workers have been applied for a transitional Commonwealth-only worker status, although most of the applications have yet to be approved. This means the CNMI still needs many foreign workers to help run the mainly tourism-based economy.

At least three worker groups in the CNMI do not want the transition period to be extended, and are asking the U.S. government to instead grant improved immigration status to long-term legal foreign workers.

MISSING

From Page 1

Tarkong said they obtained information that Friedle, 55, is likely suffering from depression.

He said he was not aware as of yesterday whether the Department of Public Safety has conducted a search operation.

The department, however, is asking the community's assistance to report any sighting of Friedle.

Police said that Friedle was last seen on Monday at 6pm at a residence in San Antonio. He was wearing a white polo shirt and dark blue short pants. He has sores on both feet and also on his hands.

Friedle's Honda Civic was found parked the next day, Tuesday, before lunch hour at Pakpak Beach.

The victim's friend picked up the car, which was locked, and drove it home. His personal items, including a watch and wallet, were left inside the car.

Saipan Tribune learned that Friedle left a note at his house that contained instructions to retrieve the car from Pakpak Beach.

Friedle also used to work at 360 Restaurant. He lately became jobless. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Saipan campaign vs stray dogs suspended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The campaign against stray animals on Saipan has been temporarily suspended until the construction of the shelter facility is completed.

Henry Hofschneider, Saipan Mayor's Office special adviser, told *Saipan Tribune* that the municipality for three months now temporarily stopped rounding up stray dogs due to the lack of space for impoundment.

He said the dog shelter in Lower Base has yet to be completed, pending the installation of pipes and construction of a wastewater tank. A permit from the Division of Environmental Quality, he added, had just been secured to go ahead with these aspects of the project.

Hofschneider said the lack of funds is also hindering the project's completion. Since construction began last year, the municipality has already spent roughly over $60,000, he said. That amount excludes other related expenditures for the program's preparation. He estimates the wastewater tank to cost about $5,000.

He described the $5,000 in remaining funds as not enough for all other necessary things they need to prepare for the facility's full operation.

The municipality's stray dog program was initially allocated $75,000 under Saipan Local Law 9-12 for the construction of an animal shelter. However, the project was stalled for many years due to the lack of additional funding.

"We're targeting to complete all the installations of pipes and wastewater tank by middle of August so we can start using the facility," he said, adding that they have, in fact, scheduled a meeting this week with the project contractor to expedite the work.

» Mayor's office targets shelter facility ready by end of August

The facility will house 38 individual cells for stray animals. At present, Hofschneider said, the municipality has a large number of stray animals at its temporary impoundment in Chalan Kanoa.

According to him, the construction of the facility is just the first phase of the project and the municipality intends to seek funding for the second phase, which includes the construction of a veterinarian's clinic and mini-shop and administration office.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Lower Base facility is intended as a temporary shelter only while waiting for additional funds for the construction of a permanent dog shelter in Kagman.

The dog control program was established in 2003 after the mayor's office was flooded with complaints of victims of stray animals.

Since the suspension of catching stray animals three months ago, Hofschneider admitted that they have been receiving complaints of stray dogs victimizing residents and tourists alike.

Based on a survey conducted by the Northern Marianas College-CREES program in 2010, Saipan has an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 stray animals wandering around villages and communities. Their number continues to increase.

All dogs on Saipan are considered stray unless they are registered with the mayor's office and are issued government tag numbers. Registration for the program finally kicked off last year where over a thousand animals were issued licenses.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Attempted poker robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on an attempted robbery incident that occurred at JL Poker II, by Family Market, Susupe village.

On Monday morning, July 23, 2012, at about 6am, a male suspect entered the poker room armed with a long wooden stick. The suspect was described as male, medium built, wearing black shorts, a green long-sleeved polo shirt, black shoes, and a grey shirt covering his face.

The suspect approached the cashier's booth. The cashier, a 40-year-old Chinese female, was locked in the booth behind the glass. The suspect swung the stick in the air threatening the cashier and shouting, "Give me money" several times. The suspect attempted to open the cashier booth door twice but it was locked. The suspect struck the stick on the counter, breaking the stick. The cashier picked up the phone and the suspect fled the area on foot. No one was injured in the incident and nothing was stolen.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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Mount Carmel School to expand its tutoring program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School will expand its federal tutoring program beginning this school year to accommodate more students who might need assistance.

MCS vice principal for curriculum and instruction Bobby Baldazo said yesterday that the institution's federally funded Title I tutoring program will be continued and expanded for the upcoming school year 2012-2013.

Last year, the program provided individualized tutoring in math and English after school to help students bring their performance in these subjects up to grade level. The program also uses formative assessments to monitor a student's progress.

This coming school year, the program will be shifted to a "pull-out" schedule offered during normal class hours. This new schedule will help the program reach more students who might need tutoring. The school will also provide tutors with more classroom space and is currently renovating those classrooms.

Baldazo

"This program has already closed the achievement gap for many students. We expect to help even more students next year with high quality of instruction and comprehensive reform strategies and methods," said Baldazo.

He said the program's expansion is part of a paradigm shift at Mount Carmel School. "We are committed to helping every student succeed."

Early this month, the school's board approved an extra-curricular credit policy for students and bared plans to adopt the national standards for Catholic schools.

Beginning this school year, the institution will also earmark its education tax credit donations to scholarship and financial assistance for its students and also launched a new learning service program.

Last school year, the CNMI Public School System transitioned from Title V programs into Title I programs. According to the U.S. Department of Education, Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

PSS Title I coordinator Justo Quitugua informed the school that the expanded program will also include training for teachers and parents.

"The Title I Program will coordinate and provide trainings throughout the school year to teachers and parents and or guardians. These trainings will enhance their instructional delivery and also help parents and guardians assist their children with their school work at home," he said.

MVA launches Facebook, Twitter contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority has launched its first English-language social media contest to promote the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Go Green in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota! Contest invites Facebook friends and users who "like" the Marianas Visitors Authority and Twitter followers to share or re-tweet the message, "Enjoy nature on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, America's garden in the Pacific. Visit now! www.mymarianas.com." Individuals who do so by Sept. 30, 2012, will be entered into a random drawing to win one of 50 Marianas eco-bags.

"Social media contests are no stranger to the MVA, as they have been utilized by our Japan and Korea offices, often in collaboration with tourism partners in those countries," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "On our recently-launched English social media sites, we are pleased to have over 450 "friends" and 118 "likes" on Facebook and over 80 followers on Twitter. We'd like to see those figures double in the next couple months."

The "Go Green" theme is based on the overwhelming results of a 2011 visitor exit survey, where most visitors indicated nature/scenic attractions as the top one or two activities they would like to see more of while visiting the Northern Marianas. Visitors also listed environmental quality as a priority.

The MVA's Facebook profile is "Saipan Tinian Rota" and the office can be followed on Twitter at @mva_cnmi. The MVA also operates a Facebook page "My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."

"Everyone's invited to join the contest and spread the word about our beautiful islands, wonderful way of life, and tourism attractions," said Bateman. "Help us tell the world how awesome our islands are!"

Contest rules are posted at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Guiao named recipient of OCA Gold Mountain Scholarship

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lallane Guiao, a former student of Saipan Southern High School, has been selected as one of the beneficiaries of the OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship this year, which entitles her to $2,000 for her college education.

Guiao

OCA stands for the Organization of Chinese Americans and aims to embrace the hopes and aspirations of Asian-Pacific Americans in the United States. It is a national organization founded in 1973 dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian-Pacific Americans.

Guiao's selection was announced by the organization's executive director Tom Hayashi, who disclosed that the CNMI student was among the only 15 students selected from a pool of over 500 finalists for 2012.

"OCA and UPS Gold Mountain Foundation recognize that scholarships are critical in helping students from lower income families attain a college education. We believe that your application demonstrates a strong passion and dedication for your pursuit of higher education," stated Hayashi in a letter to Guiao.

In an interview yesterday, Guiao was elated and grateful for the award and described the financial assistance as a great help. "This means a lot to me. Coming from a little island and from a low-income family, it would have been hard to settle for my first year [in college]. So this extra financial help will help me cover some of my needs," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guiao is convinced that both her academic and extra-curricular involvements in school and communities helped her secure the award.

Guiao, 17, is currently enrolled at Wesleyan University in Connecticut where she is majoring in education and political science. She wants to be a lawyer someday.

Guiao was also recently awarded scholarships by the Joeten Scholarship and QuestBridge Scholarship programs.

Guiao is the daughter of Hilario and Regina Guiao. She recently graduated as her batch's principal awardee and was ranked ninth in the class. She was also an active member of the school's National Honor Society, JROTC program, mock trial team, and had won awards in competitions like the Attorney Generals' Cup and Sengabau Poetry Competition, among others.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Edwin Soriente! Enjoy your special day and we love you! Greetings coming out from Nicole Eonzen and Li-Ann. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Taylor Made - Adidas Golf (DFS Galleria)
World of Wine (DFS Galleria)

Philippine president receives delegates to 7th ACGTDT tour

Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III recently received the Saipan and Guam delegates of the 7th North American Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour following the launching of the "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign.

In a courtesy call at the Rizal Hall of the Malacañang Palace on July 13, 2012, Aquino met with the ACGTDT delegates from the United States of America and Canada. Also in attendance were Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. and Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Philippine Embassies and Consulates General in the U.S. and Canada opened the 7th North American Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour on July 11, 2012, with the "It's More Fun in the Philippines" Program.

The Saipan delegation was handled by Century Travel Agency in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan and Rajah Tours, Inc., the designated program ground handler in Manila.

The ACGTDT event ended on July 14. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Among the Saipan and Guam participants that called on Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III on July 13, 2012, were Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, front row, second from right; and second row, right to left, Jacqueline Gordon, Maria Clarissa Joy David, Eden Guillo, Maria Glenda Nonato; Estrella Mendiola, behind President Aquino; and Mark Cooper, third row, second to the right.

Man gets 9 years for sex abuse of minor

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman handed down yesterday a nine-year sentence against a 41-year-old man who sexually abused a girl on Tinian since she was 8 or 9 years old.

Wiseman said he believes that John Ibanez Carreon's conduct was reprehensible and subject to a serious prison sentence.

"He victimized not only one, but some of the most protected members in any civilized—the young, the innocent, and the defenseless children," the judge said.

The girl is now 12 years old.

Wiseman sentenced Carreon to a total of 16 years in prison, all suspended except for nine years with credit for time served.

Carreon will be released from prison on Jan. 26, 2020. He will then be placed on probation for seven years. He was required to pay a $2,500 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

Carreon was also ordered to perform 2,000 hours of community service, register as a sex offender, and complete sex offender treatment.

The defendant and his counsel, Joaquin Torres, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Shelli Neal.

Police arrested Carreon on Tinian on Jan. 25, 2012, after a concerned citizen called the Tinian police two days earlier about a sexual abuse victim who wanted to die. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Four to battle for the title of 'Saipan's Next Top Chef"

Which chef will be the winner of this year's "Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition"? Whose dish, prepared with Angus certified beef and other local ingredients, will be the best tasting and best presented in this year's edition of the competition?

Find out this Saturday, July 28, 2012, at the PIC Charley's Cabaret. The doors open at 1:30pm and seating is limited.

Tickets are still available for $10 per person at the office of the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, tel. 235-2340 or by contacting contact Shelli Neal (tel. 287-2368) or Vicky Benavente (tel. 483-8425).

Chef Peter Duenas will host the event, organized by the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation. With 20 years of culinary experience in Classical French, Italian, Mediterranean and Asian cuisines, Chef Peter is featured on the cooking segments of the Outdoor Chef TV program.

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation's mission is to raise funds to support women, children, and families in need on Saipan, Kenya, the Philippines, and Bangladesh by inspiring, empowering, and providing necessary tools to help them find financial solvency. Volunteers are advocates who donate their time and effort to support the charitable programs. ***(PR)***

Audit: NMC's finances in good order

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College recently obtained an "unqualified opinion" on its financial statements for the last fiscal year, the fourth consecutive year that a similar opinion was given the institution.

An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the college as of Sept. 30, 2011. It also means that the institution's financial statements conform with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

In his report to the NMC Board of Regents, dean of administration David Attao disclosed that NMC's independently prepared audit identified no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance with the college financial statements.

Despite several findings in the new audit report, Attao said the questioned costs were less than $25,000, which he described as a success rate for the institution.

"When dealing with tens of million of dollars, we have a high success rate of successful compliance. Of the questioned costs, six are based on interpretation of federal requirements versus local requirements. The rest have been acted on and or in the process of being completed," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The audit report, identified a total of 13 findings dealing with the institution's handling of federal awards and programs.

Of these findings, two were found with questionable costs amounting to $4,131 and $18,309 respectively.

NMC president Sharon Hart vowed yesterday to respond and address the findings in the audit report.

"What this comes down to again, as in the past few years, is that the college is continuously improving its management of its finances and its internal control measures. We will continue to ensure that NMC responds to the identified audit findings in a comprehensive and timely manner," she said.

Hart revealed that the independent auditing firm, Deloitte and Touche, also indicated that NMC is one of the most financially compliant and stable entities in the CNMI and in the region.

"I am proud of our finance team who continues to work hard to improve our financial management, internal controls, and compliance," added Hart.

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
20th Anniversary
Family Fun Day
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Place: Civic Center, Basketball Court/
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TICKET
First 100 participants registered at 8:00 a.m. will get a free t-shirt.
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 27, 2000

Teno OK's funds for mayor's office

The Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday received fresh funding to meet its mounting financial obligations as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio approved two appropriation bills setting aside close to $250,000 for its operations and payment of debts. The money will come from revenues from bingo, batu and cockfight fees in the island municipality, including $171,700 from previous collection and $78,100 from new payments made by game operators. In signing the two bills, Mr. Tenorio cautioned the municipal government that reprogramming of the funds should be guided by provisions of the Planning and Budgeting Act. A huge chunk of the allocation will be used to settle debts incurred by the mayor's office during celebration of the Liberation Day last year, while portion of it will be for payment of this year's unfunded expenses.

Hawaii company tapped for PCB cleanup at cemetery

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a $3.1 million contract to Environmental Chemical Corp. of Hawaii for the cleanup of the contamination of polychlorinated biphenyls in Cemetery No. 2 in Tanapag village. In a statement, the Army Corps said the cleanup will be conducted in two phases. The first will include the excavation and stockpiling of the estimated 5,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil. The second phase will cover the elimination of the PCBs from the soil involving the low temperature thermal desorption process. ECC has already submitted a draft workplan to DEQ for comment on the process that will take place. The Army Corps will oversee the project, which will be coordinated with Region IX U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CNMI officials.

July 27, 2001

Govt to decide on landfill bidding protest

The court battle involving the Marpi landfill project is now over, tossing a bidding protest back to the Procurement and Supply Division that vowed to render a decision within the next ten days. This developed as the clamor to close the Puerto Rico dumpsite remains strong from different sectors, including the judge who handled the case. The Puerto Rico dumpsite may just take over a year to fill to the maximum level, according to a study. The Superior Court yesterday dismissed the Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed by Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific Corporation, affirming the agreement that the consortium entered into with the defendants—Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda and Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan.

Fitial defends CNMI from online 'bashers'

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday lambasted the authors of a website that ridicules Saipan and insults the people of the CNMI "with sweeping and malicious allegations." Fitial made his displeasure known even as government authorities are reportedly trying to pin down the source of the anti-Saipan smear drive. "This is clearly a demolition job, the handiwork of a sick mind." "We have here an irresponsible, bitter, insensitive individual who definitely has an ax to grind against us, as people. It is clear he could not settle his grievances shoulder-to-shoulder, so he is getting back at us anonymously, through this post in the website," said Fitial.

July 27, 2003

Enforcement vs underage smoking pushed

The Senate has passed legislation that attempts to step up local enforcement against underage smoking. Among others, the Tobacco Act of 2003 or Senate Bill 13-64 proposes a stiffer penalty of $500 or 240 hours of community service, or both, for violators. The bill, introduced by Sen. Pete P. Reyes, seeks to authorize law enforcement and health agencies to tap the voluntary assistance of minors to conduct undercover investigations against persons or businesses that engage in trafficking tobacco products to minors.

Prison bill signed into law

Long awaited legislation crafted to cover the prison project funding shortfall as well as provide financing for the Rota and Tinian dialysis centers was signed into law by acting governor Diego T. Benavente Friday afternoon. The signing came a day after the Senate passed the controversial legislation--the sixth of its kind—following months of heated debate particularly between the Saipan-ruled House of Representatives and the Rota- and Tinian-led Senate. The passage of House Bill 13-317, HD1, now known as Public Law 13-56, was a case of hitting three birds with one stone.

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Pork Spareribs 20lbs $22.99 LIMIT
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Vega Shrimps $5.79 LB. LIMIT
King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99
Mega Butane Gas $22.99 CASE

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Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA.
Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA.
Libby's Vienna Sausage 59¢ 5 OZ.
Ace of Diamond and Coco Tuna $1.39 7 OZ.
Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢
Century Tuna 89¢ 7 OZ.
Waioka Tuna 89¢
Armour Treet Luncheon Loaf $1.69
Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.
Hormel Chili No Beans $1.79 15 OZ.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.19 1.6 L.
Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $6.49 1 GAL.
Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
Dinty Moore Meatball Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash $1.99 6.5 OZ.
Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.
Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.39 26.5oz.
Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.
Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn $5.79 106 OZ.
Del Monte Fiesta Fruit Cocktail $4.99 106 OZ.
Del Monte 100% Pineapple Juice $1.99 1.36 L

Kellogg's Tri-pak 58 oz. $13.99
Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢
General Mills Tri-pak $8.99
Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.
Gold Medal Flour $3.25 37.02 OZ.
Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99
DelMonte Ketchup $4.69 2.64 OZ.
Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.
Foremost Milk $20.99
White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.
Pringles (All Kinds) $1.99

Morton Salt 89¢ 450 gm
Country Lime Lemonade $7.99
Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.
Kool-Aid $7.99 34 QTS.
Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.
Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.
Maxwell Coffee Mix $7.99 100CT.
Fresco Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.
Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.
Golden State Vinegar $3.99 2 1 GAL.
Wilkins Water $2.99 6000ML

FAMILY BAG

Stew Chicken	$5.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	$4.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99
Pork Hock	$6.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99
Pork Chop	$11.99
Pork Spareribs	$6.99
Pork Butt Steak	$9.99
Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Beef Stew	$12.99
Beef Shank	$11.99
Beef Feet	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$15.99
Ox Tail	$15.99

BEVERAGE

Capri Sun $2.99 BOX
Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun $2.99 BOX
Sunkist $6.99 CASE
Rota Water 500 ml. $5.50 CASE
Ruby Kist Orange Juice $3.79 64oz.
Ruby Kist Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.
Pepsi Lite Can $11.99 CASE LIMIT
Jinro Soju $29.99 CASE
Hite Can $16.99 CASE

PRODUCE

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Potato 79¢ LB.
Celo Apple $3.99 /BAG
Orange 99¢ LB.
Cabbage 89¢ LB.
Korean Pear $2.99 LB.
Honeydew/ Cantaloupe 99¢ LB.
Garlic $1.25 5 PCS.
Broccoli $1.49 LB.
U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.25 1 DOZ.

FROZEN

Hashbrown $4.59 20PCS. $2.29 10PCS.
Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.19
Millers Sausage $16.99
Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.
Bar S Bacon $3.25
Ground Beef $11.99 5LBS.
Chamorro Sausage $4.49 10LBS.
Ground Pork $22.49 10LBS.
Tilapia $1.09 /LB.
Milk Fish $1.49 /LB.
Green Shell Mussels $5.99 2LBS.
Frozen Cut Crab $6.99
Sea Wave Calanari $1.89 16oz.
S.C. Frozen Shrimp $3.59 16oz.

NON-FOOD

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Purex $4.49 50 OZ.
Gain Liquid $6.49 50 OZ. / $10.99 100 OZ.
Gain Powder $15.99 102 Loads / $16.99 120 Loads
Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. / $6.99 90 OZ.
Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.
Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for $3.00
Head & Shoulders Shampoo $7.99 23OZ. / 2 in 1 w/ Almond oil $4.99
Huggies Big $18.99 BOX
Luvs Big $17.99 BOX
Bounty Paper Towel $19.99 15 Rolls
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Poverty looms over election campaign

Lots of things are still very wrong with the U.S. economy, but this is one that should be getting more attention: Census figures for 2011 are expected to show the poverty rate jumping to its highest level since the 1960s.

Essentially, all the anti-poverty public policy of the last 50 years—the war on poverty and the expansion of the social safety net, the massive private-sector gains spurred by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and Bill Clinton in the 1990s—has been rendered ineffective by the meltdown of 2008 and the slow recovery.

The numbers will say the nation is at a 15.7 percent poverty rate, an unacceptably high number.

It matters. And it ought to be more directly discussed in the presidential campaign.

So much of the debate between left and right about the economy is focused on the middle class and on businesses. Both matter intensely to the health of the economy, and the best way to fight poverty is still by expanding opportunity. Businesses sell more products, hire more people and pay more wages. The middle class grows, and the ranks of the impoverished shrink.

But in relative terms, business has had a much healthier bounce-back from the recession than the rest of the economy suggests. The Dow hit 13,000 again in February (it closed at 12,721 Monday), which, although not matching peak housing-bubble levels, was a number not seen in four years, and corporate profits are soaring.

And yet many middle-class families find themselves plunged into poverty. Why? That's the question the presidential candidates need to address. And they need to do it in a way that measures up to the complexity of the problem.

Presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney continues to insist that taxes and regulation are the only measures by which companies assess their opportunities for growth. Implausibly, his economic plan would institute a flat 25 percent corporate tax rate, and he would preserve the Bush tax cuts in perpetuity. But if that kind of solution were going to preserve the middle class, it would already be doing so. Romney needs to widen the aperture of the GOP's economic lens, to discuss more realistic ways that the economy can expand to put people to work.

President Barack Obama is closer to the mark, by far. His health reform, despite GOP histrionics, has several prongs that should expand insurance and lower the incidence of poverty due to medical catastrophe. His continued focus on ways the government can help stimulate the recovery—even through efforts like trying to keep college loan rates low—is helping middle-class families hang on.

But he has also narrowed his gaze to the short term—for instance, with his suggestion that the bulk of the Bush tax cuts be preserved for just one more year—and that thwarts the discussion about longer term, more fundamental economic policy.

This election should be about how American promise and opportunity get rejuvenated. Talking directly, and in context, about the nation's growing poverty has to be an essential part of that discussion.

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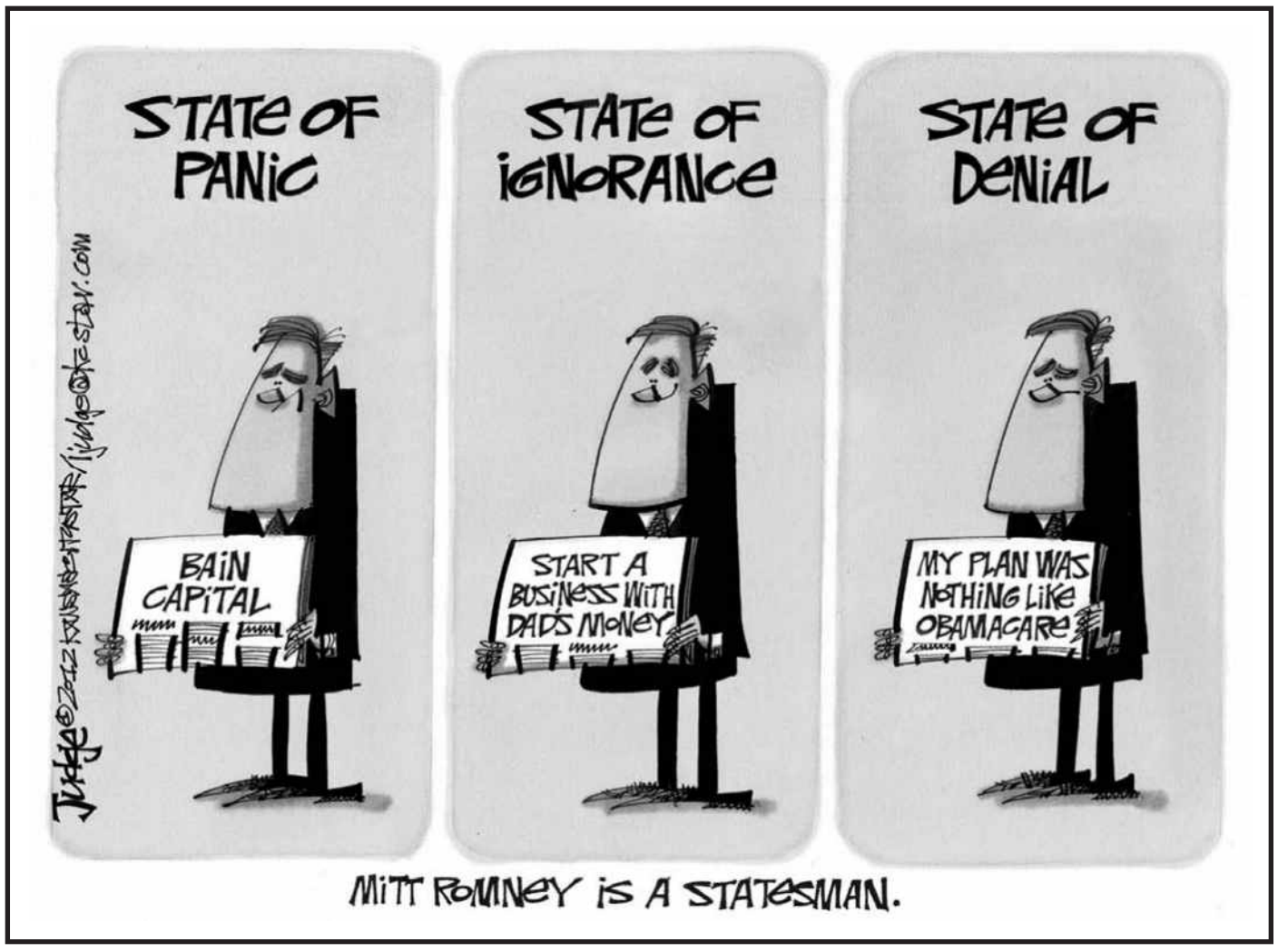
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MY PLAN WAS NOTHING LIKE OBAMACARE
MITT ROMNEY IS A STATESMAN.

Trail rails Harbin via London

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Two years ago I ventured into Harbin in the middle of winter and was pleasantly surprised by the ice lanterns on street corners and the lit massive ice sculptures along *Shang Yi Da Jie* (the business street) in its 10-block Russian architecture. Along the *Songhua Jiang* (river) were gigantic ice "palaces."

We watched events of the Winter Olympics held in the year-round four seasons of Vancouver, BC when the weather did not feel like cooperating in some of the sites; the IOC engaged technological services to meet the requirements of the slopes and slaloms.

It is Olympiad time again, the summer one, now about to commence in Big Ben's London. The official opening is Friday the 27th but heats ran as early as the 25th in the British Isles.

The Liberals are saying that the Games opened in time to indicate that readiness was reached before the eleventh hour. The Conservatives are crying out that the IOC went beyond budget. One gets the impression that the Olympiad governance has achieved the level of a country government!

China hosted the last quadrennial gathering and CCTV still sports the interlocking five-ring symbol. The Liberal and the Conservative quarrel highlights the nagging question of who benefits from massive investments that governments pour into affairs like the Olympics.

We noted that the rail station facelift being done in Shenyang is really a radical upgrade on a quaint center built to commemorate the 1912 Republic. The upgrade benefits everyone.

We remember catching a train at the Shanghai Hong Chao station in 2011 prior to the *Expo*, thinking that we would just be moving into a copycat of the Shanghai main. We walked into a structure that looked better than many of the airports we have had the chance to visit. The terminal's waiting room felt like an extension of the International Airport in Pudong, with sectioned lounges at the center, watering holes and restaurants on the second floor, and departing platforms below.

A few weeks later, we transited in Beijing on a train ride from Guillin on our way back to Shenyang. We took the time to visit the famous Nest at the Olympic village. The subway that took me there was empty. The Olympic grounds was virtually abandoned, and what was clearly a massive investment in resources appeared in disrepair.

Being pretty much of a government venture, the Beijng Olympic enterprise was not immediately a winning proposition but the village slowly evolved into a communal node as the grounds were utilized for social events, and the former athletes' dwelling joined Beijing's overcrowded but underperforming real estate assets.

Harbin is easily one of our favorite cities, mostly for pleasurable times in the couple of visits we made in the winter. We would have loved teaching in any of its numerous universities (and picked up spoken Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Chinese in the process) but our bones cried foul as the tendons and cartilages are no longer efficient in the functioning of muscles and bones.

It was barely sundown when we finally hooted into Harbin station, and nightfall by the time we left. We alighted for the 10-minute passenger allowance to walk around (not enough to do much) wanting to get a whiff of the fresh Siberian air that might have wandered into the metropolis. No such luck. We felt like we were at SF's Embarcadero smelling the latest in gasoline octane in the air.

There is evidently a journey in outer space we are going through, *Mukden to Manzhouli* on the train. We are also clear that the inner journey never stops and we could not afford not to pay it attention. Ours has become a listening to the drumbeat of our soul in the sounds of silence of the vast grasslands of Inner Mongolia.

The world watches in the next two weeks the Olympic events in London as Her Majesty's British government let it be known that defensive missiles will be activated in case any errant group is thinking of violating its sovereign space. The Games will go on.

The London Olympics of my life, too, is a time of chaos and order in the great turning that is occurring to the planet and its people. Though advanced in age, we have not lost the sense of wonder and adventure that greeted our conception and delivery into Gaia. In the middle of our continued unfolding, we never cease making life-changing decisions.

One of our local management gurus, Rik Villegas, who graces this page with his musings on occasion, wrote early this year: *Almost all of our memories are established during transition points, or moments where life-changing decisions are made that can take us on another route—for better or worse.*

In an earlier Olympic, the late Whitney Houston belted *One Moment in Time*, adopted as an Olympiad song. While the song was directed at the apex of one's achievement in an athletic endeavor, I decided upon hearing the song that it had to do with my one moment in time, and that moment is 86 years in length. My whole life is my one moment in time!

Good decisions make good stories that we remember, and bad decisions make great stories that we never forget, Rik added. Am updating my life story in this my journey through the eerie sounds of grassland silence.

How's your journey coming along?

Corn and carburetors

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If you haven't thought about corn lately, you're about to. The worst drought in 50 years has hit the U.S. corn crop, and this is going to have global implications for food prices. The media ink is flowing from the financial pages to the front pages now. In sum: Corn prices are up, big time.

However, for a little more perspective I glanced at corn futures markets. Corn is in a weird pricing situation called "backwardation." In simple terms, markets seem to be betting that corn will get cheaper in 2013, 2014, and 2015, presumably because speculators expect output to increase. So I'm not freaked out about corn prices yet, since the backwardation is telling me one of two things: Either (a) the smart money is not freaked out either, or (b) something else is going on and I'm too dumb to see it.

Anyway, why all the attention? Because corn is a big deal, and if prices get weird, there's a lot of other stuff that will be dragged into it.

Corn is widely used as cattle feed, so we're going to see an impact on beef prices. Corn is also used to make fuel as ethanol, so there's a fuel price angle here, too. And corn is also used as a sweetener in stuff like soda pop, so, well, you get the big idea here. Corn is everywhere.

When corn has price movements, the prices of substitutes (e.g. rice) and complements (stuff that goes with corn) are also moved.

So if we're going to contemplate a movement in corn, we'll be pulling on a web that spans the globe and is tied to pricing strands in rice, wheat, beef, pork, poultry, sugar, and gasoline, just to name a few things.

Some analysts make entire careers of studying corn and forecasting its prices. I'm not one of them. But I'd sure like to have lunch with one. Corn prices can jump around all over the place, so it must be an interesting industry to be involved with.

For the near term, I think we can safely say that food prices seem more likely to rise than to fall, as the near-term corn crunch works its way to market shelves.

Well, enough of the future. And enough of the present. When it comes to appreciating the magic of corn we must look to the past. Specifically, we must look to the year 1958, when the corn industry, nay, all of mankind, marked a major milestone.

That's when Jiffy Pop was invented.

"As much fun to make as it is to eat," went the advertising slogan, and it was a popular popcorn snack before microwave ovens hit the scene.

Jiffy Pop was a disposable, self-contained popcorn pan that had popcorn inside and a wire handle attached to the body. Instead of a lid it had a thin foil cover that billowed up when the corn popped. After it was done popping you'd pull apart the crown of the foil, thus making it a popcorn bowl full of crunchy goodness, plus a few chunks of carbon that were burnt kernels.

I can't help but think: Does Jiffy Pop still exist? Are any other graybeards curious about that? You should be. After all, most things from the good old days, like four-barrel carburetors, wind-up alarm clocks, and straight-wall turbojet engines have been tossed onto the scrap heap. The best stuff is "obsolete," they claim. Too sturdy and mechanical, they say. Not electronic enough, they point out. These days, everything has to be a multi-point-direct-digital-micro-processed-fully-electronic-pain-in-the-butt, otherwise it doesn't sufficiently mesmerize the techno-zombies.

Well, not Jiffy Pop. It was clever and simple at the same time. Clever because it took five years to invent. The foil atop had an intricate shape that kept it flat before use, but which performed the sacred billowing at the magic moment. A true marvel of science. And it was utterly simple to use. You didn't need electricity or appliances. You could cook Jiffy Pop with just a few stray sticks of firewood, and many a camper (me) and Boy Scout (also me) did just that. Now that's an honest food, eh? Food the way nature intended, cooked over the open campfire.

Fortunately, as it turns out, Jiffy Pop is still with us. According to the ConAgra Foods website, Jiffy Pop "Offers a fresh, homemade taste that no microwave popcorn can match." I don't know why I like that line, but I do.

Anyway, if you're really worried about corn prices, you can buy futures in it. Or options on the futures. Or an ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) in it. Me, I think I'm going to go long Jiffy Pop. That way, no matter what happens, I can at least eat the inventory.

The impact of bankruptcy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The CNMI is broke! Subdued the demeanor of elected officials may be, it doesn't change the hard reality or factual fiscal trauma of the CNMI sinking steadily into the sea of bankruptcy. Yes, you may disagree as a blind and misguided loyalist. But let's realistically review the local financial state of affairs to confirm or deny this assertion.

Realistic scenario

The CNMI has seen a huge drop in its annual revenue collection that took a nosedive from a whopping $256 million annually to $102 million. The approximate cumulative loss is nothing less than $154 million. It was the exodus of foreign capital that triggered the loss of some $5 billion to $7 billion and the resulting economic paralysis that is now endemic in this archipelago.

Against its projected $114 million for fiscal year 2013, the CNMI can't pay the Fund where it owes about $332.5 million, matching funds for Medicaid, medical referral, PSS that is slated to overspend by $7 million; defray CHC's annual operations cost of some $40 million; reinstate regular work hours; and other obligations.

We no longer could stare down the fiscal trauma, specifically heavy losses in foreign capital which requires critical and honest review. Too, for as long as the pension program isn't injected with major reform (painful reduction of pension benefits and health coverage) it will return to bankruptcy, time and again.

The reason is simple: politicians offer promises they can't fulfill because they lack the foresight and requisite credentials and expertise to do any justice to the net negative effects of the deepening economic meltdown. What's taken up as remedies in hollow fashion is usually wrapped in costly unintended consequences. Otherwise, the imperiled fund would have been solvent today. It isn't!

Be it bond pension obligation or land sale, there's no guarantee it'll stay financially afloat over the long term. Herein lies the real need for leadership with integrity who are capable of facing the difficult rain dance of bankruptcy and subsequently make hard but educated decisions.

Prohibitive taxes/fees

In their haste to perk up revenue generation, evil geniuses decided to impose more fees and taxes on private industries. The airheads are mindless of the hardship businesses have to endure with the highly prohibitive cost of utilities, monthly rentals, and salaries.

Their false premise would ruin more than encourage economic recovery. This as the economic meltdown enters more dangerous and implosive terrain. They've chanced measures without the wherewithal nor expertise to resolve revenue contraction with some use of common sense.

Thus, the new taxes would exact the complete opposite—far less revenues in the impending fiscal year—as the grain of hardship is cemented permanently and more severely at the village level. It would force business closures rather than venturing into total bankruptcy. And the chance of leaving to avoid the worsening business climate is the only next best thing to do.

More business closures translate into far less revenue generation for the local treasury. This would trigger paring down the number of employees in both sectors. It means more people would be jobless before long. The lack of employment places more people on the NAP line, bringing the total number of recipients into an historic high. A complete Nanny State is now at its embryonic stage.

Home foreclosures have spiked in recent years and the parade gets longer each new day. It's the loss of the first family home that translates into total family displacement. This loss didn't spin out of thin air. Perhaps both parents are victims of job losses and could no longer meet real estate obligations. The foreclosure effectively destroys the tradition of pride in home ownership. But the guys and gals dismiss it as a fly by cotton ball or inconsequence.

More businesses would join the second wave of foreign capital exodus. Remember Stockton, California, and other nearby cities declaring bankruptcy or the wealthy from France and Spain leaving for nearby countries because of the impending imposition of more taxes at home?

You can't blame them for leaving. We have forced them to think with their feet. Was this equation too difficult to comprehend? Did we extend a helping hand to foster lasting partnership? Or did we just bid them with the usual adolescency of sink or swim? How do we make up for unhealthy and self-inflicted miscalculations? The prognosis is critically unsettling and nasty too!

****

Need for psychological lift

The NMI needs some real time psychological lift to get out of its deepening economic meltdown. The focus should be revival of foreign capital, the ultimate goal being sustainable economic ventures. We could no longer treat foreign investors with the "them against us" attitude. It would have to be one of nurturing lasting economic partnerships.

It means returning to the drawing board to improve upon negative laws that have forced the recent exodus of foreign capital. Politicians would find this assignment difficult for it would involve very unpopular decisions. But take your pick: economic health for the entire archipelago or abject poverty against the multitude who yearn for strong leadership.

Our traditional mode of life—farming and fishing—is an issue we've ignored for decades. Does it surprise anyone that it still surfaces as the most powerful aspect of livelihood similar to a two-headed corn snake we've taken for dead a long time ago? Isn't there a subtle message in seeing permanence of tradition resurfacing when nothing else works here?

Unless we proactively engage due diligence on this score, we would continuously plunge into hardship and bankruptcy when fickle industries like tourism nosedive with every shift in the nearby markets. It can be done if we work up the resolve to burn the midnight oil until due diligence is attained on a new plan remapping the future of these isles. It also requires bringing farming and fishing to 21st century mode of production lest we'd be relegated to the Sabalu Market for life.

Would the CNMI be able to see sunny days replace gloomy dark clouds that hover beneath the blue skies of paradise? We need tons of psychological lift to gradually exit fiscal paralysis. Need our memories of an island paradise be a painful one that includes relocation elsewhere because of far less opportunities at home? What's your answer?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sick and tired of being sick and tired

Dear Abby: My name is Josepha Kaipat. I live in Kagman village. I am a teacher, and had been living alone for quite sometime now. I wake up at 5am daily, regardless whether it's wet or dry, Monday or Sunday, working or on vacation. I start off my day with a prayer of thanksgiving and end with guidance. My life is pretty much routine, even though I know the sun don't always shine each day. With lobo playing in the background, and three cups of my favorite coffee, the blend 117, I'm ready to roll. You can find me either in my yard bush cutting, in my classroom, or running errands downtown. By the time I'm halfway done with my "to do" list, it's bedtime. I do not own a washing machine, so I drop off my laundry once every two weeks. I eat on the run, so it's ether a sandwich or something out of a can. I'm what most people call "jack-of-all-trades" so I do my own yard, minor maintenance around the house, and, oh yeah, plumbing. So if there were any leaking pipes I would know.

Abby, I say all that to say, how could I have consumed 20,000 gallons of water in 30 days? I have disputed the water bill so many times, but to no avail. CUC ran out of excuses, like, they've detected a leak, yet no one showed up to show me where the leak is, or maybe my neighbors are stealing water when I'm not home. Mind you, the closest neighbor I have is from a working class, a teacher himself, and the other three are unoccupied. My guess is that, the meter reader is either high on something or flunked Math 101. Anyway, Abby, please help, I could use some answers right now.

Josepha Kaipat
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds at 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

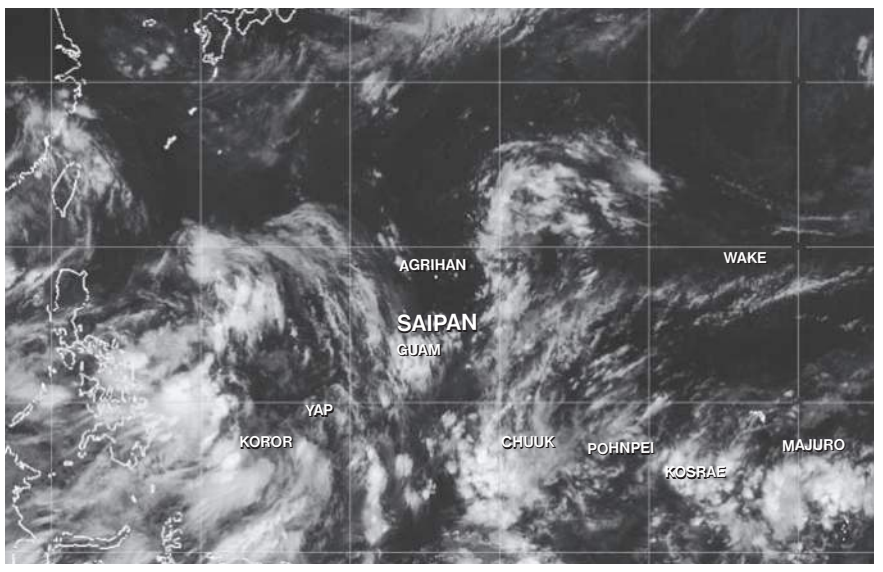
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼48
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼73
London	Showers	▲78	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼78
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼67
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼73
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲99	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from near Luzon across 11N130R through a circulation centered northwest of Koror at 9N131E to end at EQ146E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west and south of Koror west of a line from 12N133E to 7N133E to 3N137E to EQ137E. Scattered showers are also found well west of the Marianas between 13N and 19N from 130E to 136E and southeast of Yap within 80 miles of a line from 7N141E to 3N142E to EQ141E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Saipan at 18N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring across the Marianas within 80 miles of a line from 13N143E to 15N150E and farther to the northeast near Minami Tori Shima between 16N and 25N from 149E to 159E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk between the equator and 10N from 147E to 153E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and Butaritari atoll but south of Majuro between 1N and 7N from 160E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
3:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:03 PM	
Saturday	2:04 PM	12:47 AM
Sunday	3:05 PM	1:43 AM
Monday	4:05 PM	2:43 AM
Tuesday	5:02 PM	3:44 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Second free NMC information session today

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting its second free information session on today, July 27, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's As Terlaje campus in Room D-1.

This information session is for working professionals (including all government and private sector employees) and those who wish to attend college after delaying enrollment (did not enter college in the same calendar year that he/she finished high school).

Individuals who did not attend the first information session hosted last Wednesday, which drew a crowd that filled NMC's largest room, will also be able to learn about the college and the different educational and professional development opportunities available during this session.

In addition, other important topics will be presented including flexible class schedules for working professionals, short-term certificate programs, and financial aid options. The college will also be discussing a program that offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

Participants will also be able to meet NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at the college, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, and ask questions.

Those who attend this session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2012 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

The college is also reminding new students who have not applied for admission that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC for the fall 2012 semester is next week Tuesday, July 31, 2012. For more information about NMC's fall 2012 registration and semester, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting

Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on July 27, 2012, 6pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. If you have any questions, you can contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or email Vivian Sablan at vtsablan@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School has started and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/certificate, birth certificate, proof of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 27, from 8am to 12:59am.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

UOG hosts workshop on wireless networking

The University of Guam Telecommunication and Distance Education Operation has partnered with International Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Berkeley, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Green WiFi to host a workshop on Wireless Networking in the Developing World to be held at UOG on July 31 to Aug. 2, 2012.

Workshop participation is limited to eight students due to course material licensing and team project installation. Preferred participants are University students with regional backgrounds who have a working knowledge of computer operations and networking. The Wireless Networking in the Developing World workshop is free of charge for the eight students who are selected to participate.

Students may submit a letter of interest with current resume or bio to Manny Hechanova via email at mhechanova@uguam.uog.edu. The deadline to apply is July 30, 2012. ***(UOG)***

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Earhart search to continue despite no plane pics

By OSKAR GARCIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Even though a monthlong voyage for Amelia Earhart's plane wreckage turned up nothing definitive, the searchers devoted to the hunt say they have a trove of evidence to examine that will help shed light on what happened to the famed aviator 75 years ago.

The expedition to a remote atoll roughly 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii was well on its way back to Honolulu on Tuesday as Earhart's family and others marked what would have been the American icon's 115th birthday.

Google honored Earhart by changing the logo on its homepage, while her family said on their website that Earhart's legacy remains relevant.

"The aviation pioneer, who was the first female pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean, continues to make lasting impressions on people all over the world," the statement posted Tuesday said.

Pat Thrasher, president of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, said plans are already in the works for a land-based expedition to the Kiribati atoll of Nikumaroro next year.

The voyagers looked at footage as it initially came in from a tethered underwater vehicle rigged with cameras and lights. But the group expects to learn more through repeat viewings, picking up new insights on the underwater landscape where they believe the plane went down. The group has countless hours of high-definition video and sonar data.

"It's unbelievably difficult as an environment and your eyeballs fall out after a while" watching the video, Thrasher said. "The only way you can be sure you know what you found is to go back through the data very carefully."

The expedition cost $2.2 million. The group was short nearly $500,000 at the start of the voyage and will need to raise more funds for any future trips.

But the group still believes Earhart and her navigator crashed onto a reef off the remote island, Thrasher said.

Remnants of the plane, the group believes, could be in hard-to-see caves within a reef that drops like a cliff thousands of feet underwater. Or, it might have simply floated away to another area that's impossible to predict.

"This is just sort of the way things are in this world," TIGHAR president Pat Thrasher said. "It's not like an Indiana Jones flick where you go through a door and there it is. It's not like that—it's never like that."

Thrasher maintained touch throughout the search with the group's founder Ric Gillespie, her husband, and posted updates about the trip to the group's website. The updates tell of a search that was cut short because of treacherous underwater terrain and repeated, unexpected equipment mishaps that caused delays and left the group with only five days of search time rather than 10, as originally planned.

During one episode, an autonomous underwater vehicle the group was using in its search wedged itself into a narrow cave, a day after squashing its nose cone against the ocean floor. It needed to be rescued.

"The rescue mission was successful—but it was a real cliffhanger," Gillespie wrote in an email posted online last week. "Operating literally at the end of our tether, we searched for over an hour in nightmare terrain: a vertical cliff face pockmarked with caves and covered with fern-like marine growth."

Thrasher said the environment was tougher to navigate than searchers expected, and even images are difficult to distinguish.

"This was the first time any such work has been done there below scuba depth," she said.

The U.S. State Department had encouraged the privately-funded voyage, which launched earlier this month from Honolulu using 30,000 pounds (13,600 kilograms) in specialized equipment and a University of Hawaii ship normally used for ocean research.

The group's thesis is based on the idea that Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan landed on a reef near the Kiribati atoll of Nikumaroro, then survived a short time.

Previous visits to the island have recovered artifacts that could have belonged to Earhart and Noonan, and experts say an October 1937 photo of the shoreline of the island could include a blurry image of the strut and wheel of a Lockheed Electra landing gear.

The photo was enough for the State Department blessing, and led to the Kiribati government to sign a contract with the group to work together if anything is found, Gillespie said at the start of the voyage.

A separate group working under a different theory plans its third voyage later this year near Howland Island.

Earhart and Noonan were flying from New Guinea to Howland Island when they went missing July 2, 1937, during Earhart's bid to become the first woman to circumnavigate the globe.

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Kilili: USDA funds two police vehicles for DPS

Washington, D.C.—Residents of Chalan Kanoa and San Jose can feel safer with the announcement yesterday of an $80,000 federal grant for two new police patrol cars specifically for those villages. The U.S. Department of Agriculture informed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the CNMI Department of Public Safety that it has approved a Community Facilities and Economic Impact Initiative grant for the new vehicles.

"This is good news for the people of Chalan Kanoa and San Jose, and Hagoi, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laolao, Chalan Piao, Oleai, Susupe, and the surrounding areas," said Sablan. "These new vehicles will allow our Department of Public Safety to step up patrols in and around these villages and respond faster when a crime occurs or when people need help.

"It is also good news for our police officers, who have had to struggle with a shortage of dependable vehicles to do their work and keep us all, residents and tourists, safe.

"The goal is to make these two vehicles the beginning of an overall fleet rejuvenation to replace aging, undependable vehicles at DPS," Sablan said.

Public Safety representatives first met with USDA officials to discuss the urgent need for the village patrol vehicles in March at a meeting that Sablan arranged at the congressional office.

"Our DPS officers made a strong case to the visiting USDA Rural Development team from Guam and Hawaii," Sablan recalled. "When USDA heard about the vehicle shortage and how hard it is for DPS to do its job under these circumstances they made a commitment to find federal funding for new vehicles."

Increasing federal grant funding for the Northern Marianas has been a priority for Sablan, especially now that the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has decided to block "earmarks."

"Members of Congress used to be able to direct funding to projects back home," Sablan said. "Now, we all have to be a lot better at finding grant opportunities, putting together good applications, and managing the funds without error.

"So I was glad to be able to bring USDA and DPS together, and get the ball rolling on this grant and get our dedicated police officers the equipment they need to do their job," said Sablan.

Earlier this year Sablan sponsored a grants workshop, together with the Northern Marianas College and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Over 100 people attended the multi-day sessions to learn about identifying opportunities and writing grants.

One opportunity for federal help was the USDA's Community Facilities and Economic Impact Initiative. Grant applications for the program are graded in part on the median household income for the area to be served. So DPS applied for vehicles to patrol the villages of Chalan Kanoa and San Jose, which had the lowest median household incomes reported in the 2000 decennial census.

"Residents of Chalan Kanoa and San Jose, and the surrounding areas, will certainly be able to sleep better at night and feel safer during the day, knowing these new patrol cars will help deter crime and will get officers on the scene more quickly when a crime does occur. And our tourist economy is helped, too, when our islands are better policed and safer for visitors," Sablan said.

He thanked Alton Kimura, Rural Development's Community Programs director from Hawaii, as well as Joseph Diego and Bernadette Balajadia of Rural Development's Guam office. "They all provided support and guidance to the Department of Public Safety throughout this process."

Sablan is committed to supporting the Department of Public Safety and its officers and to helping provide needed supplies and equipment through whatever federal opportunities are available. ***(PR)***

Chamber goes environmental in August

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its August general membership luncheon on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting begins at 12pm sharp. Luncheon is $20 for Chamber members, $30 for guests and the public.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan will hand the August meeting over to the SCC Environmental Committee, co-chairmen Greg Moretti, executive director of the Pacific Maritime Resources Institute, and Ron Smith, owner of Angil Design, Inc., to introduce speakers who will focus on environmental issues.

Dr. Peter Houk, chief biologist for the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, will speak on "The Status of the CNMI's Coral Reef Resources," and John Gourley, principal/owner of Micronesian Environmental Services, will speak on "A Characterization of the 2011 Saipan Reef Fish Market."

Kaitlin Mattos, watershed coordinator for CNMI Department of Environmental Quality, will speak briefly on the upcoming Garapan Conservation Action Planning Workshop on Sept. 10-13, 2012.

Rebecca Skeele of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office will make a brief presentation on the upcoming National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center's three-day workshop titled "Climate Change for Coastal Communities" this Aug. 7-9, 2012.

The Chamber and the Environmental Committee will also announce the revival of the successful Cash for Trash program. Details will be provided where student and civic groups will clean designated areas of Saipan for cash.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the CNMI. The Chamber has 170 members, and works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interests, and general health and welfare, of the islands. ***(SCC)***

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Joeten Motors donates Ford Fiesta as hole-in-one prize

The excitement of the upcoming 17th Annual Tournament of Champions has just been raised by Joeten Motors and the Joeten Charitable Foundation's donation of a brand new 2012 Ford Fiesta as a hole-in-one prize. With this contribution, the tournament will now be featuring three different vehicles as hole-in-one prizes.

"The Tournament of Champions raises funds for important community projects, and we want to be a part of that effort by offering this hole-in-one prize," said Matthew Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors.

"Joeten Motors has consistently been a part of the success of the Tournament of Champions, and we are glad the company is joining us this year as a gold sponsor again," said Ben Babauta, tournament director.

The 17th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 4 and 5. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes.

The TOC tournament fee is $175.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets, fourth from right, and other company representatives present the key to a brand new Ford Fiesta to Tournament of Champions director Ben Babauta, third from left, and TOC planning committee members Marida Pensader, Arthur Miron, and Boyet Centeno. The vehicle will be featured as one of the hole-in-one prizes at this year's 17th Annual Tournament of Champions on Aug. 4 and 5, 2012.

Over $300,000 worth of prizes is at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes worth $50,000 on both the east and west courses courtesy of AON Insurance. The Bank of Hawaii also recently confirmed that it is sponsoring another hole-in-one prize of $20,000. Other hole-in-one prizes include a 2013 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors and a 2013 Toyota Venza from Microl Toyota.

If that's not impressive enough, Saipan Laolao Golf Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize, while Delta Airlines is also contributing business class airfares to the U.S. mainland as yet an additional hole-in-one prize.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan tourist district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

"We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents." Babauta, said. "It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsors and committee members that make this event possible."

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. *(PR)*

3-day 'heart examination' at Witnesses' convention

People may often hear the expression "Follow your heart" but rarely hear "Safeguard your heart." The latter phrase will be heard many times this weekend during the 2012 "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses. The convention is scheduled to begin Friday morning at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The convention will highlight Biblical references to the heart. Program parts will also encourage self-scrutiny and reflection, amounting to a three-day examination of one's own figurative heart. Attendees will see how protecting the figurative heart can help them to make wise decisions, improve family life, strengthen their personal relationship with God, and find true happiness.

Jehovah's Witnesses invite everyone to attend and learn more about these topics. The program sessions begin at 9:20am on all three days of the convention. Admission is free. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations. ***(PR)***

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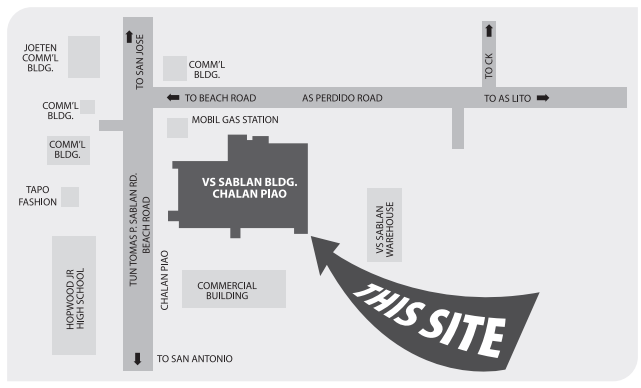

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Business

USDA says drought will push up food prices in 2013

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The drought gripping more than half the country is a major reason why consumers can expect to pay 3 percent to 4 percent more for groceries next year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Milk, eggs, beef, poultry and pork prices will all be affected because the drought has pushed up prices for feed, and that will eventually translate into higher prices for steaks, hamburger, pork chops and chicken. The good news for cost-conscious consumers is that prices for fruits and vegetables, as well as processed foods, aren't affected as much by the drought.

Exactly how much more people might pay for a pound of hamburger, for example, isn't known because those prices are affected by lots of factors, including how much of the increase a given supermarket might pass along to the consumer. But beef prices as a whole are expected to see the biggest jump at 4 percent to 5 percent, according to the USDA.

Dairy product prices are forecast to climb 3.5 percent to 4.5 percent; poultry and egg prices are projected to rise 3 percent to 4 percent; and pork prices are expected to rise 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent in 2013, the agency said.

"In 2013 as a result of this drought we are looking at above-normal food price inflation. ... Consumers are certainly going to feel it," USDA economist Richard Volpe said.

Normal grocery price inflation is about 2.8 percent a year, Volpe said, so even a 3 percent increase is slightly higher than usual. The USDA kept its projected food price increase for 2012 steady at 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent, saying average retail food prices were flat for the first half of 2012 thanks to unusually low fruit and vegetable prices as well as lower prices for milk and pork.

AP

Butcher Freddie Quina cuts meat at Super Cao Nguyen in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

The new forecasts are the agency's first food price projections to factor in the drought, though experts have been warning for a few weeks that prices will rise. As fields dry out and crops wither across much of the country's midsection, prices for corn, soybeans and other commodities have soared in anticipation of tight supplies. That means farmers and ranchers will have to pay more to feed their livestock, and those costs eventually get passed on to consumers. Food prices typically climb about 1 percent for every 50 percent increase in average corn prices, according to agricultural economists.

Processed foods aren't affected as much because feed costs don't account for as much of their price tag. Fruits and vegetables aren't expected to be any more costly because they are irrigated even in normal weather. The USDA is projecting an overall 2 percent to 3 percent increase for all fruits and vegetables next year, the same as it expects this year.

USDA economists were aware of the drought a month ago when they did their last projections but didn't know how bad it would get, Volpe said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Visa loses $1.8 billion on legal costs

NEW YORK (AP)—Visa posted a loss of $1.8 billion for the April-to-June period on an increase in litigation costs. Excluding that expense, Visa's results were much better than analysts expected. Payments processors Visa and MasterCard, along with a number of major banks, recently settled a longstanding legal battle against stores over card fees. Visa, MasterCard and the banks agreed to pay the retailers $6 billion as part of the settlement. Visa had increased its litigation provision by $4.1 billion, which led the company to post a loss of $1.8 billion, or $2.74 per share, for its fiscal third quarter. The San Francisco-based company said its revenue grew 10 percent to $2.6 billion, compared to analysts' expectations of $2.5 billion

S. Korean economic growth falls to over 2-year low

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's economic growth fell to a two-year low in the second quarter as exports and capital expenditures shrank due to a slowdown in its largest trading partner, China, and debt-crippled Europe. The Bank of Korea said Thursday in its preliminary estimate that South Korea's economy expanded 2.4 percent over a year earlier in the three months ending in June, the lowest growth since the third quarter of 2009. The second-quarter gross domestic product was just 0.4 percent higher from the previous three months, when the economy expanded 0.9 percent. Asia's fourth-largest economy was widely expected to report weak growth for the April-June period.

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- Laundry facility
- Parking space

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Nation

Obama pledges to work with Congress on violence

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In one of his most expansive responses yet to gun crime, President Barack Obama on Wednesday embraced some degree of control on the sale of weapons but said he would also seek a national consensus on combating violence. He said responsibility for curtailing bloodshed also rests with parents, neighbors and teachers to ensure that young people "do not have that void inside them."

Obama

Speaking just six days after the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colo., that left 12 dead, Obama pledged to work with lawmakers of both parties to stop violence, not only the sudden massacres that have bedeviled the nation, but the steady drip of urban crime that has cost many young lives.

"We should leave no stone unturned and recognize that we have no greater mission that keeping our young people safe," Obama said in a speech to the National Urban League.

Obama called for stepped-up background checks for people who want to purchase guns and restrictions to keep mentally unbalanced individuals from buying weapons. He says those steps "shouldn't be controversial, they should be common sense."

But he also added: "We must also understand that when a child opens fire on other children, there's a hole in his heart that no government can fill."

Obama's speech represented a bookend to a four-day trip that began in Colorado on Sunday when he visited with survivors of the theater massacre.

For Obama, the address to the National Urban League was a necessary overture to a voting bloc that overwhelmingly backs him but that has sustained much of the brunt of the economic downturn.

In his speech Obama promoted his economic and health care policies, tailoring what has become a standard campaign speech to his African-American audience. He drew attention to initiatives that have helped Americans in general, and African-Americans in particular.

But, as he did during his 2008 campaign, he also pressed personal responsibility.

He said young Americans are competing against kids in Beijing and Bangalore. "You know, they're not hanging out ... they're not playing video games, they're not watching `Real Housewives,'" he said. "I'm just saying. It's a two-way street. You've got to earn success."

Ahead of Obama's remarks, the Urban League played a video showing photos of famous African-Americans that culminated with images of the president and his family the night of the 2008 election. The crowd of several thousand responded with thunderous applause that was sustained as Obama walked on stage and peppered with chants of "four more years."

Report: Suspect described killings in package

DENVER (AP)—The university once attended by a man accused of killing 12 people in a Colorado movie theater confirmed on Wednesday that it received a suspicious package two days earlier that was turned over to authorities, but it wouldn't confirm its contents or sender.

Holmes

The University of Colorado, Denver said the U.S. Postal Service delivered the package to its medical campus Monday, and it was immediately investigated and turned over to authorities within hours.

Fox News' website reported that former neuroscience graduate student James Holmes sent a notebook to the university containing scribblings of stick figures being shot and a written description of an upcoming attack. The package containing it was addressed to a psychiatrist at the school, the website reported. It was unclear if Holmes, 24, had had any previous contact with the person. The neuroscience program that he withdrew from on June 10 included professors of psychiatry.

He is accused of opening fire on a theater showing the new Batman movie, killing 12 people and injuring 58.

NBC News, citing unnamed sources, reported that Holmes told investigators to look for the package and that it described killing people.

The FBI and other law enforcement agencies refused to confirm the reports to The Associated Press.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman David Rupert said the agency's inspectors have no direct knowledge of the package reportedly containing the notebook. He said no one has contacted the Postal Service for assistance in the investigation.

Police say woman sexually assaulted on rowing trip

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Five weeks ago, Jenn Gibbons set off on 1,500-mile solo rowing journey around Lake Michigan to raise money for breast cancer survivors, blogging along the way about life on the water. Police say someone following her well-chronicled voyage from a distance may have used the information to do her harm.

A man broke in as Gibbons slept in the vessel's cabin, police say, and sexually assaulted her while the boat was moored along the shore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She is going public about the ordeal, hoping it helps catch the assailant and sends a message of strength to others who have been assaulted.

Her dream of traversing the lake's perimeter alone in a boat is over, but she's continuing the journey with a support team—and partly on land.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUGAR DOCK BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FROM AUGUST 9, 2012 THRU AUGUST 16, 2012. THIS IS NECESSARY FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE TO REMOVE THE ACCUMULATED SAND ON THE BOAT RAMP AND CHANNEL AREA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 664-6000

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that **ELIZABETH (Beth) A. BERGARNIO** is no longer employed, affiliated or associated in any manner with NVM Enterprises since March 30, 2012. Any transactions made by her on behalf of the Company after March 30, 2012 are considered null and void.

This is to inform the public that **ROGELIO (Boy) O. SEXON** is no longer employed due to the cancellation of his CW Petition as a Security Guard. Any transactions made by him on behalf of NVM Security after July 19, 2012 are considered null and void.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements Project, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (Project No. CPA-SA-003-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, 2012.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO Date: June 28, 2012
Executive Director

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2012, at the conference room of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Oral or written questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Joseph C. Guerrero or Commissioner Zenie P. Mafnas at The Law Office of Robert Tenorio Torres at 670-234-7859 (phone) or 670-234-5749 (fax). Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503758 C.K., Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Saipan, M.P. 96950.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order- Quorum
2. Election of Officers
3. Status reports on regulated entities addressed by Georgetown Consulting Group
4. Response to Guam Telephone Authority's (GTA) June 21, 2012 Request for a Certificate of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)
5. Transfer of checking account signatory authority to the new chairperson
6. Administrative Matters
7. Other business

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. REX I. PALACIOS, Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 12-0010 AMENDED SUMMONS**

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: REX I. PALACIOS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 20th day of June, 2012.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 234- 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff,.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- **JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA,** Defendant(s).	**Civil Action No. 11-0178 SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
SOOK M. BORJA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustistia Complex, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th day of July 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Superior Court

Asia

Philippine massacre witnesses placed under guard

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Several witnesses to a 2009 election-related massacre of 57 people have been placed under government protection following a spate of killings of other witnesses to the country's worst political bloodletting in recent years, officials said Wednesday.

State prosecutor Peter Medalle said six witnesses have been added to the Department of Justice's witness protection program to ensure their safety. Additional protection has been given to at least four other witnesses already in the program, he said.

The governor of southern Maguindanao province, Esmael Mangudadatu, who is also the husband of one of the 57 victims, said at least six witnesses or their relatives have been gunned down since the massacre trial began in September 2010, sowing fear among other witnesses.

One witness, Esmail Amil Enog, is believed to have been killed in March, his body cut into pieces, but authorities learned about his death only recently, according to prosecutor Nena Santos.

Enog, a government militiaman, testified in court last year that he drove dozens of gunmen to the hilly site of the massacre in Maguindanao from the residence of one of the suspects, Santos said, adding he refused to be placed under government protection to avoid being separated from his family.

Mangudadatu said the witnesses placed under government protection include a town vice mayor. He has not testified so far because defense lawyers have been trying to block his testimony, he said.

"They don't want him to talk because he has some damning things to say," Mangudadatu told a news conference.

Members of the politically powerful Ampatuan clan, which controlled dozens of militiamen, have been blamed for the massacre of rival Mangudadatu clan members, their supporters and media workers who were traveling in a convoy when they were stopped by dozens of gunmen.

The Mangudadatus planned to challenge the governorship of Maguindanao which had been controlled by the Ampatuans for years.

Among the dead were at least 31 media workers. It was the single worst killing of journalists in the world.

After stopping the convoy, the gunmen took the victims to a nearby hill and shot them to death with assault rifles. The gunmen tried to hide the massacre by burying the bodies and some of their vehicles in a large grave with a backhoe.

More than 20 witnesses have testified so far against 103 suspects who have pleaded not guilty to murder charges. They include Andal Ampatuan Sr., the clan patriarch who allegedly gave orders to his son to carry out the massacre. Nearly 100 suspects are still at large.

New York-based Human Rights Watch has called on the Philippine government to redouble its efforts to protect the witnesses.

North Korea confirms Kim is married

AP

In this undated photo released by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and distributed in Tokyo by the Korea News Service Thursday, July 26, 2012, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju, right, waves to the crowd as they inspect the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground in Pyongyang.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea ended weeks of speculation Wednesday by confirming that the mystery woman beside young leader Kim Jong Un at recent public events is indeed his wife, "comrade Ri Sol Ju."

The news was buried in a state TV report about Kim's tour of a new amusement park, delivered casually by a newscaster who gave no details about Ri, including how long she and Kim have been married.

Kim, who inherited rule of North Korea from his father, Kim Jong Il, seven months ago, has been seen with Ri at a concert, a kindergarten visit and other events recently, but state media did not mention her before now, fueling widespread speculation about her identity.

Analysts said the announcement was a calculated move by Kim and his advisers as they forge the image of the 20-something leader who took power following the December death of Kim Jong Il.

"Kim Jong Un is breaking with his father's secrecy-shrouded leadership," said Lim Eul-chul, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam University. "The revelation of his wife is a sign that Kim wants to show a more open leadership."

The couple's public appearances and Wednesday's brief marriage announcement are a striking contrast to Kim Jong Il's style. His 17-year rule was known for its secrecy, and his companions and children were rarely discussed. That includes Kim Jong Un, who was virtually unknown outside North Korea before his formal introduction to the world in late 2010.

North Korean media showed Kim and Ri smiling broadly, Kim leaning slightly toward her, as they inspected the newly opened Rungna People's Pleasure Ground.

Afghan family works to pay off crushing debt

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—For Razi Khan, a debt of almost $900 has condemned him and his family to years of work in a brick factory in an eastern Afghan city, with little or no hope of ever paying it off.

Khan has eight children. Six of them, including a 4-year-old, toil at the brick factory to pay off a crushing debt that has followed him for the past six years. With a salary of just $6 a day to feed his children and sick wife, it is unlikely he can pay off the debt.

"My heart wants to accomplish more things, such as to educate my children and to make them equal with other people, but unfortunately, I can't do this," Khan said.

When he turned 18, Khan went to work in Iran before returning to Peshawar, a Pakistani city across the border, where he wed in a marriage arranged by his family. He was working in a brick factory in Peshawar when his wife became ill. So he borrowed money from the factory to pay for treatments and feed his growing family.

But the debt was too high, so after six years he moved to Jalalabad, where a brick factory agreed to cover his debt in Pakistan. Still, after three years he still has not managed to cover the new debt to the Afghan brick factory.

"Whenever we see our father's obligation, we think that we should work days and nights with him," said his 14-year-old daughter, Raihana, who works with her father in the factory from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m. nearly every day. "Our hearts want more things, but we can't have them."

The family lives on hand-me-downs from neighbors and struggles just to put food on the table.

"Afghanistan is getting aid from international community, but we are still in this mud (for bricks) and we are mortgaged to this brick factory," she said.

According to the family, there are others in similar situations at other brick factories.

"I work with my father every day and we only have a weekend," said six-year-old Rashid, who complained that other families have time off to entertain themselves. "But we go to brick factory and make lines of standing the bricks and make the mud for the bricks."

World

Syria rushes reinforcements to its largest city

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops rushed dozens of tanks and reinforcements Wednesday toward Aleppo, the country's strategically vital commercial capital, in a bid to crush a rebel advance that has spread to wide swaths of the sprawling city.

As five days of fighting in Aleppo intensified, and with rumors swirling of a final showdown in that city, neighboring Turkey tightened its borders but said refugees will be allowed through.

"We are expecting a big attack on Aleppo," Mohammed Saeed, an activist based in Aleppo, told The Associated Press. "People are worried they might face random shelling while fleeing."

The rebels have made stunning advances over the past week, but the battle for control of Syria, a geographic and political linchpin at the heart of the Middle East, is far from over. And the potential for wider, regional unrest is great.

Israel's foreign minister warned that his country will act immediately if it discovers Islamic militants such as Lebanon's Hezbollah are raiding Syria's chemical or biological weapons stocks.

"For us, that's a casus belli, a red line," Avigdor Lieberman told Israel Radio.

Israeli officials have reported a run on gas masks. Demand has almost doubled in the past few days, to 4,200 requests on Tuesday from a years-old average of about 2,200, said Merav Lapidot, a spokeswoman for the Israeli postal service, which distributes the masks.

On Monday, Syria threatened to unleash its chemical and biological weapons if it faces a foreign attack.

The White House said Wednesday that the Syrian government's assault on Aleppo with tanks and fixed-wing aircraft illustrates what it called "the depth of depravity" by Assad's regime.

AP

In this Tuesday, July 24, 2012 photo, a damaged vehicle from clashes between Free Syrian Army soldiers and Syrian government troops is seen at the border town of Azaz, some 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Aleppo, Syria.

Arabs to seek UN General Assembly action on Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Arab nations announced plans Wednesday to go to the U.N. General Assembly and seek approval of a resolution calling for a political transition and establishment of a democratic government in Syria following the Security Council's failure to address the escalating crisis.

Saudi Arabia's Ambassador Abdallah al-Mouallimi and Qatari diplomat Abdulrahman Al-Hamadi announced plans to seek action by the 193-member world body, where there are no vetoes, during a Security Council debate on the Middle East.

Last week, Russia and China again vetoed a Western-backed Security Council resolution aimed at pressuring President Bashar Assad's government to stop the violence by threatening sanctions if he didn't withdraw heavy weapons from populated areas within 10 days.

"The Arab states have decided to head to the General Assembly over the situation in Syria," al-Mouallimi told the council.

Al-Hamadi said the Syrian government's threat to use chemical and biological weapons, and other threats to the region, "have made us feel even further regret with the inability of the Security Council to deal with the Syrian crisis in an effective manner."

Therefore, he said, "the Arab group in New York is going to the General Assembly of the United Nations to deal with the serious threat represented by the Syrian crisis."

The push for action in the General Assembly followed an appeal earlier Wednesday by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the world to unite in its response to Syria's civil war and do all it can to stop what he called the slaughter taking place there.

"Today, the international community is being tested in Syria," he said in a speech to Bosnia's parliament in Sarajevo, the once devastated city at the heart of the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

"Without unity, there will be more bloodshed. More deadlock means more dead," Ban said. "That is why, here in the heart of a healing Bosnia and Herzegovina, I make a plea to the world: Do not delay. Come together. Act. Act now to stop the slaughter in Syria."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,525,000.00** in LIHTCs for the 2012 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, September 14, 2012.** NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 29, 2012**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **October 15, 2012**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October or November 2012** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October or November 2012 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Acting Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2012-010
FROM
NMHC'S REGISTERED & APPROVED CONTRACTORS

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, August 30, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from NMHC's Registered and Approved Contractors in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provided to the Commonwealth. Aside from other governing regulations specified in the Scope of Work, proposers are advised this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts as well as Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Off The Wall

Man frees 17-pound lobster from Conn. restaurant

WATERFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut man purchased a 17-pound lobster at a Waterford restaurant, then released the crustacean back into Long Island Sound.

Don MacKenzie of Niantic tells The Day of New London he knew the lobster, nicknamed "Lucky Larry" by local children, would have to be about 80-years-old to reach his current size and felt it deserved to live.

"It takes seven years for him to even become a lobster big enough to keep," MacKenzie said. "For a lobster to live this long and avoid lobster traps, nets, lobster pots ... he doesn't deserve a bib and butter."

MacKenzie won't say how much he paid The Dock restaurant to take Larry off the menu Tuesday.

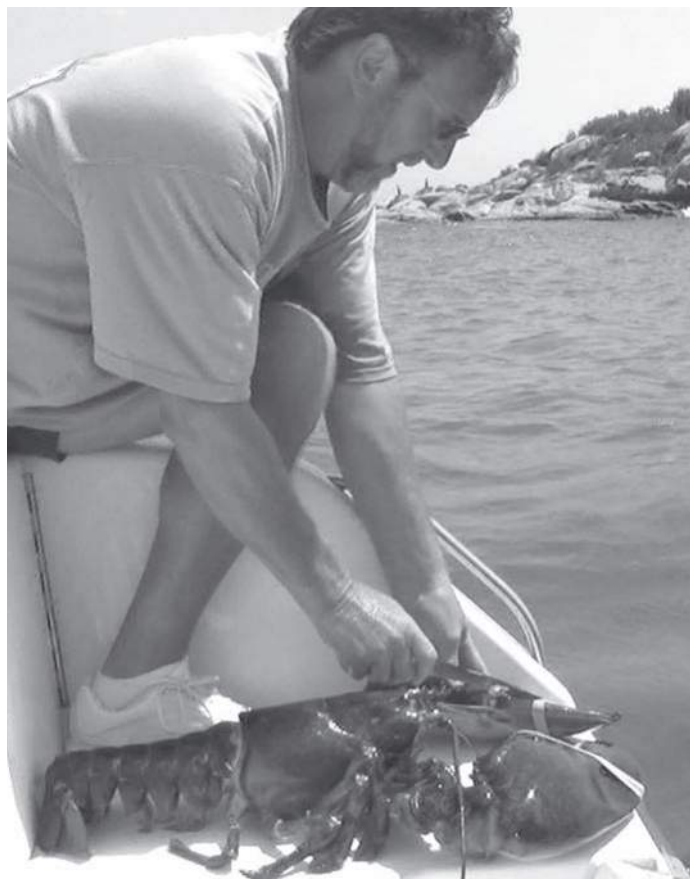
"Let's just say that it's the most expensive lobster I never ate." MacKenzie told the newspaper.

He took the lobster back to sea Tuesday, releasing it in a secret location, where he said it would be almost impossible for fishermen to drag their nets.

"They drag during the day, so if he does venture out of this area, hopefully it will be at night," said Steve Wilson, who works with MacKenzie at a local marina and helped him set Larry free.

MacKenzie received a send-off from a group of children chanting "Let Larry Live" and the lobster was given a salute from the Niantic River Bridge operator who sounded the lift bridge's siren as the boat carrying it headed to sea.

Mackenzie kept a memento of the experience, the two thick rubber bands that had been wrapped around Larry's claws to keep him from pinching anyone.



AP

In this Tuesday July 24, 2012 still frame from video, Steve Wilson removes rubber bands from the claws of Lucky Larry the lobster before releasing at an undisclosed location off the Connecticut shore in Long Island Sound.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

21-pound lobster finds new home at Boston aquarium

BOSTON (AP)—A 21-pound lobster caught off Cape Cod has found a new home at the New England Aquarium in Boston. That's after a raffle for the lobster at Capt'n Elmer's Fish Market in Orleans, the town where it was caught July 14. The winner was to receive some smaller lobsters and a chance to be there when the big guy was released into the wild. But the winner wanted the big lobster donated to the aquarium instead. Aquarium spokesman Tony LaCasse says the lobster arrived Monday and will be displayed after a routine 30-day quarantine period. It'll be rotated into the exhibit, provided it doesn't tear up too much of it or eat hard-to-replace fish sharing the space. Big as it is, it's smaller than the 35-pound Lobzilla that lived at the aquarium in the 1980s.

Man charged for refusing to leave NC jail

WENTWORTH, N.C. (AP)—A man who'd just been released from jail in northern North Carolina was arrested again for refusing to leave the jail after authorities wouldn't give him a ride to a motel. The News & Record of Greensboro reports that 37-year-old Rodney Dwayne Valentine was charged with trespassing. Valentine was released from the Rockingham County jail Saturday morning after being behind bars since May 22. The sheriff's office says he asked them to drive him to a local motel and they refused. Deputies charged Valentine with second-degree trespassing when he had refused to leave the jail by Saturday afternoon. He's being held on $500 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 9.

Man convicted of punching 7-year-old girl for bike

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska jury has convicted a man of assault and robbery charges for delivering a knockout punch to a then-7-year-old girl when she refused to give up her bike. Thirty-four-year-old Byron Syvinski of Anchorage was convicted Wednesday of robbery and six counts of assault in the June 2011 incident. He was accused of punching Am-marie Martin in the head. She fell unconscious and he allegedly hit her several more times. KTUU reports she was in the courtroom to hear the verdict. Police say Syvinski appeared to be delirious during his arrest. The defense said he was using bath salts, which mimic effects of cocaine and ecstasy but there was no trace of them in his system following the attack. He faces up to 41 years in prison when he's sentenced Oct. 26.

Death Announcement

In God's Care

Maria Benavente Sedmik

Born to Life on May 13, 1941

Was called to her Eternal Life by our Dear Lord on
Monday, July 16, 2012 at Elk Grove, California.

In Her New Life, She now Joins Her:

BELOVED HUSBAND: Rudy Sedmik

Her Spirit and Memories will Live Forever in the Hearts of Her:

DAUGHTER: Gina Sedmik Conners & Randy
GRAND-DAUGHTERS: Christiana Maria
Kaylee Sue
Raelynn Rebecca

She will be greatly missed by her Family and Friends

Your Thoughts and Prayers are Greatly Appreciated

From the Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

Therese Tenorio Lizama-Salas

November 05, 1965 – July 22, 2012
"Korason – Pilaku"

In Her New Life She Now Joins Her:
Parents: *Antonio Castro/Emiling Tenorio Lizama*
Grandparents: *Adela Reyes/Andreas A. San Nicolas, Jose Pangelinan Tenorio, Jose Cabrera/Consolacion C. Lizama*
Daughter: *Naomi Keola Lizama Delos Reyes*
Parents In-Law: *Atanacio Tydingco Salas, Juan San Nicolas, Maria Santos Salas*

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:
Husband: *Martin Delos Santos Salas*
Children: *Allen James L/Dora Simitara (Rylee, Ryan, Raeanna Simitara), Antonio Jose L. Delos Reyes (Karen Castro), Martin L. Salas Jr., Kelvin Clyde L. Salas, Britiney Gale L. Salas, Keola Annette L. Salas*
Sisters/Brothers and In-Laws: *Linda L./Antonio C. Crisostomo and Children, JosephT./Norma Q. Lizama and Children, James T./Jintana K. Lizama and Children, Ray Anthony T./Yvonne Q. Lizama and Children, Jennifer T. Lizama and Children, Elenita L./Peter Guiterrez and Children*
Sisters & Brothers In-Law: *Vicente S./Sophia M. Salas and Children, Antonio S./Rosalina O. Salas and Children, Emmanuel S. Salas/Linda M. Norita and Children, Jose S. Salas and Children, Cynthia S./Allan E. Rodeo and Children, Sylveria S. Salas and Children, William S./Yvonne Dlg. Salas and Children, Ramon S./Dorinda M. Salas, Melinda S./Augustin S. Naputi, Joaquin S./Corason V. Salas, Diego S./Keiko O. San Nicolas*

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, aunt, uncles, godchildren and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 pm at the Santa Soledad Church, Kagman.

On Monday, July 30, 2012, our Beloved Therese's remains will be taken from CHC at 7:30 am to Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. Responso Services will be at 8:00 am followed by Holy Rosary and public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You
The Family

Science & Technology

Sony's new compact camera is worth the extra bucks

By DON LINDICH
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONY ELECTRONICS INC./MCT
The large sensor is what makes the Sony DSC-RX100 unique in the compact class and is the reason for the price premium.

Q. Do you have any information on the new, $600+ Sony pocket-sized camera that is getting rave reviews? I am not a pro but love taking pictures and need a pocket camera. I use movie mode often and being able to take low-light night photos would be lovely. I hate flash for both for the washed-out look and the startling, intrusive quality when photographing people. It stinks for nature and buildings too. Is it worth it for me to spend the money for the new Sony, when other small cameras cost much less?—F.S., Pt. Richmond, Calif.

A. The camera you are referring to is the $649 Sony DSC-RX100. It is generating a lot of buzz and is selling out everywhere.

The 20-megapixel DSC-RX100 has a sensor far larger (in physical size, not megapixels) than any other compact camera and combines it with a sharp Zeiss zoom lens packed in a solid metal body small enough to fit into a pocket. It's designed for serious photographers who want as little compromise as possible in a pocket camera, as well as well-heeled travelers and family shooters who want the very best.

The large sensor is what makes the DSC-RX100 unique in the compact class and is the reason for the price premium. Large sensors work well in low light and in good light pictures have a smooth, deep, natural look. Given the camera's size and capabilities, the $649 price is warranted. The critical question is "Is it worth it for me to spend all that money on the new Sony, when other cameras cost much less?"

In your case, I think the DSC-RX100 is worth splurging for. Good pictures in low light without flash are important to you. With its large sensor the DSC-RX100 does this far better than any other compact camera. The large sensor, sharp lens, optical image stabilization, and 1080p AVCHD video recording make for top-notch video as well. If you buy anything less you are not going to get the results you want and won't be happy. Though new cameras come out all the time, the DSC-RX100 is a very powerful tool and with its 20 megapixels, big sensor and sharp lens it will be useful to you for many years.

If low-light capabilities and video recording were not as important I would recommend taking a look at the Olympus XZ-1. It has a top-notch lens and internal processing that produces clear, sharp, colorful pictures without fuss. It retails for $399 and refurbs can be had for as little as $299. Unfortunately its 10-megapixel sensor is only about 1/3 the physical size of DSC-RX100 sensor and the video recording is only 720p Motion JPEG.

Contact Don Lindich at www.soundadviceblog.com and use the "submit question" link on that site.

Details on upgrading to new Mac system

NEW YORK (AP)—So you've heard a lot about Apple's new operating system, Mountain Lion, and think you're ready to upgrade your Mac computer. Your options depend on what computer you have now.

■ If you bought your Mac on or after June 11.

The upgrade is free. You can get Mountain Lion as a download through the Mac App Store.

■ If you bought your computer in late 2009 or after.

Be sure you have either the Snow Leopard or the Lion version of the operating system installed.

The upgrade will cost $20 through the Mac App Store. That's $20 for all your Macs, not each one.

■ If you have an older computer.

You must first upgrade to Snow Leopard if you don't have either that or Lion already. That costs $29 and is available for shipping through Apple's online store.

It's possible an older computer won't work with Mountain Lion at all. You need at least 2 gigabytes of memory and 8 GB of available storage. Specific computers supported by Mountain Lion are listed here: http://www.apple.com/osx/specs.

Even if you can run Mountain Lion, it's possible some features won't work on older machines.

STUMP THE GEEKS

Tools for fighting the war against pop-up ads

By TYLER DUKES
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

QUESTION: I somewhat recently started getting these pop-up windows telling me a coupon is available for whatever site I'm using. Often I have to click it several times to get it to go away, only to have it reappear if I click to another page on that site.

As if that is not annoying enough, I am also getting "script running on this page" error pop-ups, so I have to click those closed as well as the coupon ads themselves. These often appear many, many times while I am using a site.

I cannot figure out where these are coming from nor how to eliminate them for good. Any ideas?

I use Internet Explorer and Yahoo search tool.—S. Sanders, Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

ANSWER: Although most Web browsers are now equipped with pop-up blockers by default, there are still plenty of ways for obtrusive advertising to worm its way onto your screen. In a way, the programmers developing these protections are in an arms race with others working on clever ways to outsmart the system.

Most of these pop-ups aren't harmful to your system—they're just attempts by sites to make a little cash. But if you're seeing the same kinds of messages pop up no matter where you surf, your computer could be infected with a virus or spyware.

First things first, though: Ditch the toolbar. IBM distinguished engineer and IT Security Architect Jeff Crume says these browser add-ons are often sources of spyware and other "features" that can affect the performance of your system. Browsers typically have a search bar built in already, so uninstalling those extras will reduce clutter and improve performance.

Your next step should be to make sure your antivirus software is updated and running.

In most cases, however, antivirus software won't detect problems with spyware, which you may have contracted unknowingly online. Crume suggests downloading and running tools like Spybot or Ad-Aware, both of which have free versions. They'll be able to ferret out the offending scripts that run in the background of your browser and eliminate them. It's also a good idea to perform this check regularly.

If the issue really is coming from the websites you're visiting regularly, there are a number of free browser plugins to help you beef up the power of your stock pop-up blocker. But they may require a change of browsers.

Crume recommends NoScript for Mozilla's Firefox browser or AdBlock, which is available for Firefox and Google's Chrome browser. Free extensions like these do come with caveats, however.

"NoScript provides additional security by preventing Web sites from automatically downloading things to your system, but can cause some sites not to render correctly," Crume said in an email. "For those—assuming you trust them—you can configure NoScript to allowing scripting to run while blocking all others by default."

Given how universally irritating users find it to be, I'm always surprised pop-up advertising still has a place on the Web. But with powerful tools that put the control back in your hands, you can suppress these interruptions without much technical know-how.

At least until the pop-up makers outsmart our solution again.

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

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Life & Style

Stewart's affair unlikely to harm 'Twilight' take

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Twilight" fans are heartbroken by Kristen Stewart's public admission that she cheated on her boyfriend and co-star Robert Pattinson. Some on Twitter are blasting the actress with no shortage of nasty names, while others are pledging support for Pattinson, calling him "sexy" and promising they'd be faithful.

But the scandal involving the on- and off-screen couple is unlikely to affect box-office returns for the final installment in the vampire-romance juggernaut due this fall, or even harm the image of the 22-year-old actress.

"It could make her actually more alluring," said Ian Drew, a senior editor at Us Weekly magazine, which features compromising photos of Stewart and her "Snow White and the Huntsman" director Rupert Sanders in its latest issue, out Friday. "It's not like Sally Field did this, so it could actually enhance her appeal and make her even bigger."

Stewart, whom Forbes named Hollywood's highest-paid actress last month, issued an apology to People magazine Wednesday, saying she is "deeply sorry for the hurt and embarrassment I've caused to those close to me and everyone this has affected."

"This momentary indiscretion has jeopardized the most important thing in my life, the person I love and respect the most, Rob," she said. "I love him, I love him, I'm so sorry."

Stewart and Pattinson, 26, have been in a relationship for several years after meeting on the set of "Twilight," in which they play lovers.

Sanders, 41, who is married and has two children, followed with his own apologetic statement to People.

"I am utterly distraught about the pain I have caused my family," he said. "My beautiful wife and heavenly children are all I have in this world, I love them with all my heart. I am praying that we can get through this together."

A spokesman for the director confirmed the statement Wednesday. Representatives for Stewart and Pattinson did not respond to requests for comment.

AP

This May 29, 2012 file photo shows actress Kristen Stewart and director Rupert Sanders attending the "Snow White and the Huntsman" screening in Los Angeles.

Fans embraced Stewart as human girl Bella Swan and Pattinson as vampire suitor Edward Cullen from the moment they were announced in 2008 as the stars of the big-screen adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's popular novels. The real-life romance that bloomed between the co-stars only made things more magical for the mostly female fan base.

"The fans are so romantically tied to this movie in both the real-life romance and the on-screen romance, so I'm sure this is hitting them pretty hard," said box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com. "They think of Bella and Edward and Kristen and Rob like family—characters they absolutely love on screen and in real life. For a 14-year-old girl, this is probably heartbreaking. But are girls not going to see the movie because of this? Heck no."

Bieber paparazzo faces criminal charges in pursuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A paparazzo photographer faces criminal charges in connection with a high-speed chase of Justin Bieber earlier this month, marking the first use of a new state law designed to clamp down on photographers' reckless pursuit of celebrities.

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office on Wednesday filed four misdemeanor charges against Paul Raef, 30, including reckless driving with the intent to capture pictures for commercial gain, reckless driving, failure to obey a peace officer and following another vehicle too closely.

Bieber pulled over for police and was given a speeding ticket. Paparazzi pursuit of celebrities has long been identified as a risk in Los Angeles.

"It's Hollywood. There are a huge number of celebrities and there's a lot of money paid for these pictures," said attorney Harland Braun, who has defended cases involving paparazzi and who said he has had to fend off photographers chasing his celebrity clients.

"Unfortunately, innocent people get caught up in these chases," he said. "I think the law is a good thing."

City attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan said the Raef case meets all the criteria spelled out in the law which has not been used before this.

Bieber

"We're very confident in our case," he said

However, a leading First Amendment lawyer said the California law is likely to be challenged vigorously.

Attorney Douglas Mirell said the statute enacted nearly two years ago seeks to punish members of the press by a different standard than the average person.

"A fan doing the same thing, trying to get a glimpse of Bieber or taking a photo for their personal photo album might be engaged in the same egregious conduct. But it would fall outside the statute because they were not doing it for a commercial purpose," Mirell said.

He said members of the press should be prosecuted the same way as others for laws such as reckless driving but should not be singled out as more culpable than others.

The charges stem from a July 6 incident in which Los Angeles Councilman Dennis Zine, a former police officer, and three other motorists called 911 to report a high speed chase along the 101 Freeway in the San Fernando Valley.

Judge appoints temp guardian for Jackson children

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Wednesday intervened in the turmoil roiling the Jackson family, appointing the son of Tito Jackson to serve as temporary guardian of Michael Jackson's children in the absence of the family matriarch and in the midst a feud over the pop superstar's estate.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff temporarily suspended Katherine Jackson as the children's guardian because she was in Arizona and hadn't spoken with them in several days. He appointed Tito Joe "TJ" Jackson to serve as temporary guardian with the ability to control the hilltop home where the children live and to take on other supervision duties.

Beckloff said there was no evidence that Katherine Jackson had done anything wrong but instead it appeared she was being prevented from fulfilling her role as guardian through the "intentional acts of third parties." He didn't elaborate but made the decision after reading court filings in which TJ Jackson expressed concern that Katherine Jackson was being prevented from returning

He cited a Monday incident in which Janet, Randy and Jermaine Jackson arrived at the children's home and told them they could speak with their grandmother but had to leave with them.

"This was odd and disturbing to me and (the children) and heightened our concern that our grandmother was being prohibited from returning home," TJ Jackson wrote in a sworn statement.

Beckloff listened as attorneys described Katherine Jackson's demeanor as unusual on phone calls placed to the children hours before the hearing.

TJ Jackson's attorney Charles Shultz also revealed in court filings that the children were forced to miss school Wednesday because of concerns about their security. Shultz wrote in a filing that around 3:30 a.m. a new security team arrived at the Jackson home in suburban Calabasas claiming they had been authorized by Katherine Jackson to take charge.

He wrote that the guards asked about the children's school. "That last inquiry caused the head of security to be concerned and he advised that (the children) stay home from school on Wednesday."

Beckloff ruled the Jackson children could not leave California without court approval.

Katherine Jackson's attorney Perry Sanders Jr. said after the hearing that he spoke with his client as she was driving back to Los Angeles from Tucson, Ariz., where she had been since July 15.

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The Watch
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A group of guys stumble onto an alien invasion during a faux neighborhood watch meeting where they usually do some male bonding to get away from their dull suburban lives in this sci-fi comedy starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn. Akiva Schaffer directs from a script by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. Rosemarie DeWitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:45 3:55 7:00 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 12:45 3:55 7:00
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

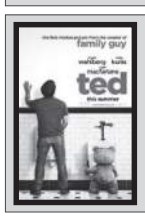
Synopsis
Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise continues with this Warner Bros. release, the third in the series. The story will pick up after the events of The Dark Knight, with Christian Bale returning as the Caped Crusader—this time pitted against the deadly Bane (Tom Hardy) and Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman (Anne Hathaway). Nolan directs from a script he co-wrote with his brother, Jonathan, working off the story by David Goyer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:15
Sunday thru Thursday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 10:10
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:05 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13



Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

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Skydiver Fearless Felix jumps from 18 miles up

Skydiver "Fearless Felix" Baumgartner has done it again.

On Wednesday, Baumgartner took another stratospheric leap, this time from an altitude of more than 18 miles—an estimated 96,640 feet, nearly three times higher than cruising jetliners. He landed safely near Roswell, N.M. His top speed was an estimated 536 mph, said Brian Utley, an official observer on site.

It's the second test jump for Baumgartner from such extreme heights and a personal best. He's aiming for a record-breaking jump from 125,000 feet, or 23 miles, in another month. He hopes to go supersonic then, breaking the speed of sound with just his body.

"It has always been a dream of mine," Baumgartner said in a statement following Wednesday's feat. "Only one more step to go."

Longtime record-holder Joe Kittinger jumped from 102,800 feet—19.5 miles—in 1960 for the Air Force. Kittinger monitored Wednesday's dry run from a mini Mission Control in Roswell.

As he did in March, the 43-year-old Austrian ascended alone in an enclosed capsule lifted by a giant helium balloon that took off from Roswell. He wore a full-pressure suit equipped with parachutes and an oxygen supply—there's virtually no atmosphere that far up.

It took about 1 1/2 hours to reach his target altitude. He was in free fall for an estimated three minutes and 48 seconds before opening his parachutes.

AP

In this Thursday, March 15, 2012 photo provided by Red Bull Stratos, Felix Baumgartner prepares to jump during the first manned test flight for Red Bull Stratos over Roswell, N.M. On Wednesday, July 25, 2012, the 43-year-old Austrian plunged to Earth from an altitude of more than 18 miles landing safely near Roswell, N.M.

"It felt completely different at 90,000 feet," Baumgartner noted. "There is no control when you exit the capsule. There is no way to get stable."

In March, Baumgartner jumped from 71,581 feet, more than 13 miles, saluting before stepping from the capsule. Bad weather earlier this week delayed the second test jump until Wednesday.

NASA is paying close attention to this Red Bull-funded project dubbed Stratos, short for stratosphere. The space agency wants to learn all it can about potential escape systems for future rocketships.

Baumgartner won't come close to space, even on the ultimate jump that's planned for late August or early September. Space officially begins at 100 kilometers, or 62 miles—more than 328,000 feet.

Baumgartner, a former military parachutist and extreme athlete, has jumped more than 2,500 times from planes and helicopters, as well as from skyscrapers and landmarks, including the 101-story Taipei 101 in Taiwan.

Kittinger, who turns 84 on Friday, was an Air Force captain when he made his historic jump for what was called Project Excelsior. He reached 614 mph on that dive, equivalent to Mach 0.9, just shy of the sound barrier.

Baumgartner expects to accelerate to 690 mph on his final plunge. ***(AP)***

Piven to star as US founder of UK's Selfridges

Piven

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeremy Piven, who played uber-Hollywood agent Ari Gold on the series "Entourage," is moving uptown to PBS' "Masterpiece."

"Masterpiece" executive producer Rebecca Eaton said Wednesday that Piven will star in the drama series "Mr. Selfridge," about the flamboyant American who founded the British department store Selfridges.

The series' creator is Emmy Award-winning writer Andrew Davies, whose TV credits include "Pride and Prejudice" and "Bleak House."

"Mr. Selfridge" will air as part of WGBH Boston's "Masterpiece" showcase in 2013.

The series is a co-production of "Masterpiece" and ITV Studios, which also are teaming on new episodes of popular PBS mystery series including the Inspector Morse prequel "Endeavor," "Miss Marple" and "Inspector Lewis."

Toy maker sues Lady Gaga over bungled doll deal

NEW YORK (AP)—A toy company is suing Lady Gaga for more than $10 million, claiming the pop star sabotaged a deal to make a doll in her likeness that would play snippets of her music.

In a suit filed in New York City on Tuesday, MGA Entertainment, the maker of the popular Bratz doll line, said it paid a $1 million advance to the company that handles Gaga's merchandizing and spent a mint racing to meet deadlines to ship the dolls this summer.

The dolls were to feature some of the singer's outlandish costumes, as well as a "voice chip" with samples of her songs.

But the toy maker said the plan was derailed in the spring when the merchandiser, Bravado International, abruptly tried to back out of the part of the deal allowing the dolls to use the singer's music. MGA said Bravado then tried to delay sales of the doll until next year, when her new album is expected to be released.

The toy company claimed the singer's representatives ultimately stopped cooperating with the project while she went on a world tour. MGA said her refusal to sign off on the final doll designs is jeopardizing $28 million in expected revenue from the fall shopping season and holding up orders from 10 countries.

A representative for Lady Gaga called the lawsuit "ill-conceived" and said there was "no legitimate reason" to drag the singer into a dispute primarily between MGA and Bravado, a subsidiary of Universal Music Group.

Bravado issued a statement through a spokesman calling the lawsuit "meritless."

In the lawsuit, MGA's lawyers claimed that Lady Gaga's representatives were initially thrilled with the doll prototypes, although they had asked for a few tweaks. In one email cited in the lawsuit, Bobby Campbell, the vice president of Gaga's management company, the Atom Factory, asked if the doll could be "more supermodel-like" with "more of a cat-eye and sexier, poutier lips."

Jenna Jameson pleads not guilty to DUI charges

WESTMINSTER, Calif. (AP)—Former adult film star Jenna Jameson has pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence when she struck a light pole in Southern California.

Jameson was arrested on May 25 after her Range Rover struck the pole in Westminster, resulting in minor injuries. Prosecutors in Orange County say tests showed her blood-alcohol level was .05 percent above the state legal limit.

Jameson was charged with three misdemeanor counts, including driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, driving with a blood-alcohol level over the state legal limit and driving on a suspended license.

She entered her plea on Tuesday.

Jameson's attorney, John Marshall Kremer, told City News Service that his client declined to comment.

Jameson crossed into the mainstream after publishing a popular autobiography in 2004.

New dance company created for new reality show

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Reality TV mogul Nigel Lythgoe is producing a new competition series where a dance company is created in just 28 days.

The Ovation network said Wednesday that "A Chance to Dance" will follow the audition and training process leading up to a live performance in New York by the new dance company.

The network says choreographers Michael Nunn and Bill Trevitt will audition and select dance hopefuls in Washington, Salt Lake City and Austin, Tex.

"A Chance to Dance" is executive-produced by Lythgoe, a creator of "American Idol" and a judge on "So You Think You Can Dance," in partnership with his son Simon Lythgoe.

The seven-part series premieres Aug. 17 on Ovation, an arts-oriented cable network available in 50 million U.S. homes.

Moms of son's playmates resist joining in on the fun

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have a son with two good friends. They are at my house often and are really good boys. I enjoy them, and I'm glad my son is friendly with them.

The problem is their mothers. Both these women are receptive to playdate invites, but when I see them in social situations, they say very little to me and almost act as if they don't know me. Even when they pick up their kids, talking to them is awkward, and they give the impression they're always in a hurry.

I think if your kids spend five hours at my house and I have fed them, I deserve a little face time at the very least. I find their behavior rude and would love to say something. I'm just not sure how. What do you suggest?

PLAYDATE ETIQUETTE

DEAR PLAYDATE ETIQUETTE: I think you are expecting too much of these women. Because your son is friendly with theirs does not guarantee that the friendship must extend to the parents. If the only thing you have in common with them is the fact that their boys spend time with your son, then it may not be so much a matter of what you "deserve" but what they are comfortable with. If you want to be compensated for the snacks, then say so, but don't expect them to be paid for with friendship ... 'cause it ain't gonna happen.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been widowed for four years and have had the good fortune to meet someone special. I'll call him Jerry. My mother-in-law, whom I am very close to, is still grieving the loss of her son. She says it is hard for her to see Jerry and me together.

Does this mean I can't invite him to any family events? We are at the point in our relationship where I think it would be unkind to make him feel like he is not welcome. Jerry has been patient, loving and considerate of me and my kids. What do you think I should do?

DOESN'T WANT TO HURT HER

DEAR DOESN'T: Your mother-in-law will ALWAYS grieve the loss of her son. The question is, is she willing to risk becoming distanced from you and the grandchildren? Talk to her about your relationship with Jerry and explain that you still would like to be a part of her life, but that it will require her to accept the new man in YOURS.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Joanne," is 42 and lives at home with me. She's attractive, friendly, well-liked and has a good job. She pays all her own bills.

The problem is, she seems stuck in her life. She hasn't dated in years and appears content to just go to work and come home.

Whenever I try to encourage her to get out more, she says, "It is what it is." She's not shy. She's outgoing, so I don't understand. I'd love for her to be independent and have her own apartment. Sometimes she'll turn it around and ask, "Do you WANT me to leave?"

Joanne doesn't seem to understand that I'm concerned only for her future. She has no siblings, and I worry that when I'm gone she'll be alone. I want her to get out more, meet someone and eventually fall in love. How do I get through to her without nagging?

ONLY WANTS THE BEST FOR HER

DEAR ONLY WANTS THE BEST: Your daughter has many positive attributes. Has it occurred to you that she may be perfectly happy with her life as it is and not looking for the kind of life you would like her to have? Worrying about her won't do either of you any good. Let the future work itself out. There's an old proverb with much truth in it: "Man plans; God laughs."

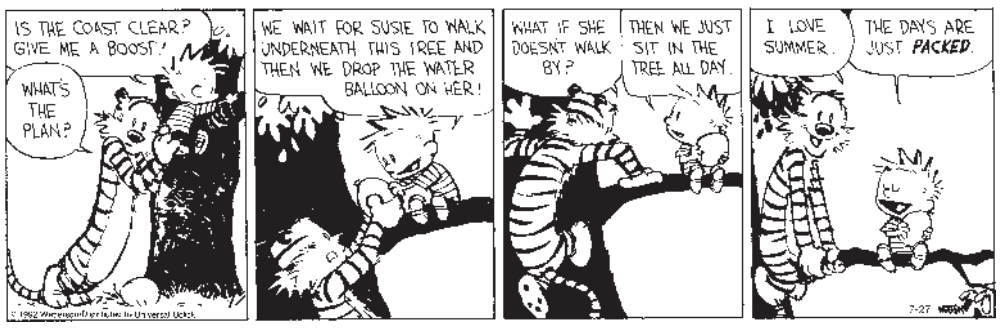
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

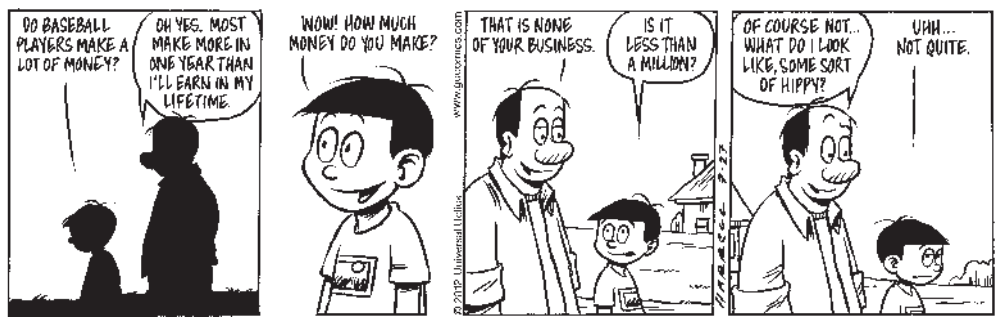

IS THE COAST CLEAR? GIVE ME A BOOST!
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WE WAIT FOR SUSIE TO WALK UNDERNEATH THIS TREE AND THEN WE DROP THE WATER BALLOON ON HER!
WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T WALK BY?
THEN WE JUST SIT IN THE TREE ALL DAY.
I LOVE SUMMER.
THE DAYS ARE JUST PACKED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

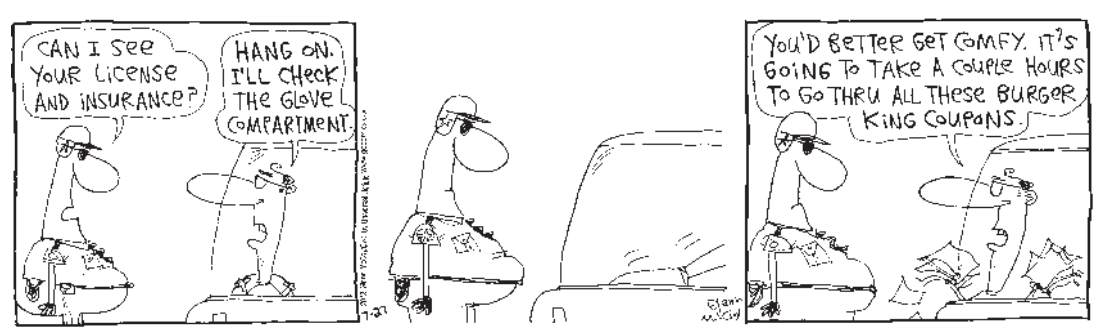
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO BASEBALL PLAYERS MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?
OH YES. MOST MAKE MORE IN ONE YEAR THAN I'LL EARN IN MY LIFETIME.
WOW! HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU MAKE?
THAT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
IS IT LESS THAN A MILLION?
OF COURSE NOT... WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, SOME SORT OF HIPPY?
UHH... NOT QUITE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


CAN I SEE YOUR LICENSE AND INSURANCE?
HANG ON. I'LL CHECK THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT.
YOU'D BETTER GET COMFY. IT'S GOING TO TAKE A COUPLE HOURS TO GO THRU ALL THESE BURGER KING COUPONS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

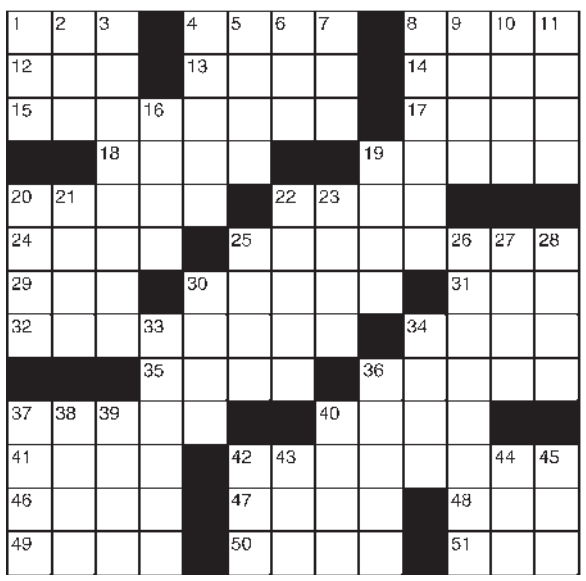
ACROSS
1 CNBC's Cramer
4 Oxen's burden
8 Links warning
12 Oklahoma city
13 State with certainty
14 Egyptian wading bird
15 Observing
17 Goes up and down
18 Lummox
19 Not just plump
20 "Yippee!"
22 Classic Welles role
24 Settled down
25 Strong
29 Director Howard
30 Customs
31 Compass dir.
32 Brought into disrepute
34 Elevator name
35 "Born Free" lioness
36 Treaties
37 Boston Marathon month
40 Eve's third son
41 Reddish mount
42 Nolan Ryan's job
46 Capri, e.g.
47 Neighborhood
48 TV's "Science Guy" Bill
49 Landlord's paper
50 Rhett's last word
51 Wrigley product

DOWN
1 Mandible
2 Mrs. McKinley
3 In harmony
4 "Gulliver's Travels" brute
5 "Metamorphoses" writer
6 Barbie's companion
7 Work unit
8 Untruthful one
9 Reed instrument
10 Cage components
11 Being, to Brutus
16 Coagulate
19 Individuals
20 Hospital section
21 Lotion additive
22 "M*A*S*H" locale
23 Dumbstruck
25 Spacecraft compartments
26 Attractive
27 Monad
28 Not so much
30 Shopping center
33 — in (restricted)
34 Inauguration recitation
36 Pie nut
37 Sahara-like
38 Sit for a photo
39 Bronchial sound
40 Goblet feature
42 Tablet
43 Glass of NPR
44 Big Apple sch.
45 Jewel

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	O	I	C		B	E	N		S	H	A	G
A	R	E	A		I	R	A		M	Y	N	A
N	E	A	P		J	A	R		O	M	I	T
D	O	M	I	N	O		T	A	K	E		
			T	O	U	C	H	M	E	N	O	T
C	O	L	O	R		L	E	A		E	T	H
E	L	U	L		B	O	X		F	A	T	E
N	I	X		S	O	W		A	I	L	O	Y
T	O	U	C	H	A	N	D	G	O			
			R	A	Y	S		Y	E	O	M	A	N
T	W	I	N		T	O	N		D	I	D	O
S	H	E	D		E	N	E		E	R	O	S
P	O	S	Y		D	O	S		D	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 7-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 35; Maya Rudolph, 40; Julian McMahon, 44; Cliff Curtis, 44.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace and prepare to make the changes necessary to get what you want. Ask for favors or call in old debts. What you offer in return for a helping hand will lead to repeat customers and a chance to expand or diversify to bring in extra cash. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 27, 29, 33, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Trust your own judgment. Set the standard and run the show. Pursue what you want and you will find a way to incorporate everything you do into your plans. Love is on the rise, and fun times are ahead. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be careful how you approach touchy subjects with friends or family. Over-aggressiveness will lead to misunderstanding. Judge your relationships with others based on commonality and how relaxed you feel sharing personal information. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer services to someone in need. Your generosity will put you in a good position and allow you to demonstrate what you can contribute on a much larger scale. Take time out to do something enjoyable that will improve you personally. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't take on more than you can handle or something you cannot finish. A problem with friends or children will leave you feeling helpless. If you want to make something work, you will have to find a unique solution. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't quick to take care of complaints. An unusual approach to saving will help you ward off someone's attempt to help you part with your money. Love is highlighted, but will be costly. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't consider doing everything by yourself. If you really want to make a difference, go to the experts and learn firsthand what's required. Your ability to admit when you are wrong will influence the outcome of a standoff. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can take on more then you realize. Once you get moving, it will be difficult for anyone to catch up. Don't let an emotional comment slow you down or hold you back. Do your own thing and enjoy your accomplishments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An argument will develop if you don't share others' beliefs. Don't discuss matters that can leave you in an awkward position. It's OK to head in a different direction, but you may not want to talk about it just yet. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't argue over money. Budget wisely, or you may not be able to afford your next adventure. A relationship will provide you with plenty of excitement. Don't exaggerate, or you will end up looking bad in front of someone you like. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your contributions won't go unnoticed if you are humble and gracious and you share any honors with those who contributed to your success. Sharing the glory can have a long-term effect on your advancement and popularity. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let emotions lead you astray or cause you to miss out on something you really want to do. Getting your house in order will contribute to lifestyle improvements and help you to better manage your finances. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let intuition lead. You can take action to avoid falling behind. Don't let someone who is trying to manipulate you personally interfere with what you need to accomplish professionally. Emotional deception is apparent. Get a second opinion. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an outgoing doer, quick to adapt and experiment.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
	4	7		1	9			
	9	1			3			
						2	1	
6	7			2			9	5
	3	2						
			2			8	3	
			5	6		1	7	
				4				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	4	5	1	2	9	7	6
6	1	7	9	8	4	2	3	5
2	5	9	3	7	6	4	8	1
9	7	3	8	6	5	1	4	2
1	6	8	2	4	7	5	9	3
4	2	5	1	9	3	7	6	8
5	9	6	4	2	8	3	1	7
7	4	2	6	3	1	8	5	9
8	3	1	7	5	9	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONIES **Solution: 7 letters**

S	S	B	S	I	H	S	R	E	E	H	C	R	O	T
E	P	T	E	T	E	T	A	T	S	W	A	T	C	H
T	E	E	A	G	A	L	F	L	A	M	E	M	A	G
E	E	O	C	D	I	R	O	S	T	R	U	M	G	I
L	C	L	A	T	I	N	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	L
H	H	Y	U	D	A	U	N	P	S	U	M	M	E	R
T	E	M	L	N	L	C	M	I	A	P	D	U	K	E
A	S	P	D	A	I	R	U	R	N	R	O	N	C	W
N	T	I	R	V	S	Q	O	L	I	G	A	R	I	O
O	E	C	O	Y	N	Y	U	W	A	G	T	D	T	H
I	A	E	N	D	A	E	H	E	E	R	U	L	E	S
T	M	T	U	L	F	C	L	I	V	E	G	D	U	J
A	S	S	S	Q	A	R	E	N	A	E	T	I	N	U
N	O	D	N	O	L	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	S	L
T	R	A	C	K	H	Y	R	T	N	E	C	I	T	Y

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Arena, Athletes, Beginning, Cauldron, Cheers, City, Coach, Duke, Entry, Fans, Flag, Flame, Game, Greece, Head, Host, Judge, July, Light, Live, London, Musicals, Nation, Navy, Oath, Olympic, Parade, Queen, Rostrum, Royal, Rules, Show, Spectacular, Speeches, Sport, Stadium, Start, State, Summer, Teams, Ticket, Torch, Tourist, Track, Unique, Unite, Watch, World

Yesterday's Answer: Family

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is available. Visit your favorite bookstore or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480 to order. Or order online at www.uclick.com/store/WONDERWORD. Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Local toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.uclick.com. Contains 45 puzzles, 8.5 inches by 11 inches, 20 to 25 staples.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

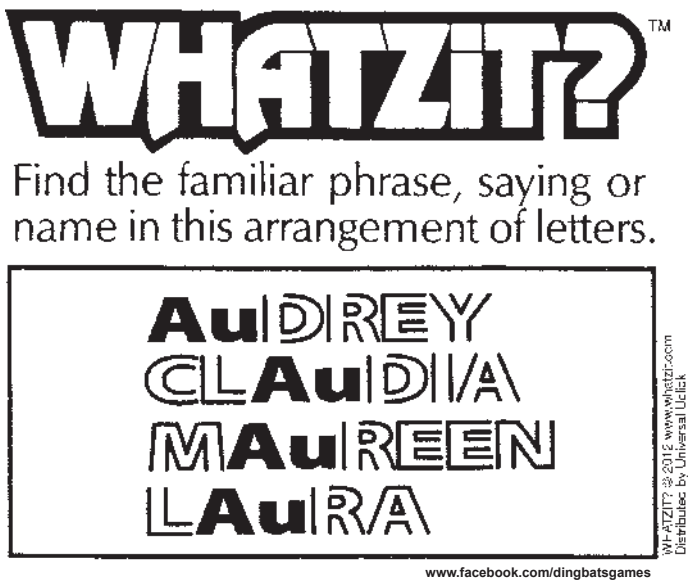
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

EMPLOYMENT

JTS Distribution is looking for (1) Graphic Artist with a Four year Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Must have at least 5 years experience. Call Joe or April at 789-7575.

FAMILY GARAGE SALE
Saturday, July 28, 2012
7:00AM – 11:00AM
In Gualo Rai pass the basketball court
Selling: Computer, Printer, Mini Fridge, Car Subwoofer, DVDs, Baby Items, Clothes, etc.

FOR RENT
2-bedroom apartment in Garapan near church partly furnished - $400/mo
Garapan Commercial Space or Storage unit.
CALL 285-1487

Kanoa Resort Saipan

P.O Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

(1) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years work experience and training. High school graduate or equivalent. Able to service, repair, calibrate, regulate, fine-tune or test machines, devices and equipment that operate primarily on electrical or electronic principles. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department.

Interested applicants may email resume to joe_ada@saipan-grandhotel.com. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort , is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road , Susupe , Saipan , and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
 # 04-2012

Opening date: July 13, 2012 **Closing date: July 27, 2012**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Accountant-III (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30p.m., July 27, 2012.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accounting Manager
Supervises the following sections in Finance: General Accounting, Purchasing, Cost Accounting and Income Audit. Primarily responsible for maintaining an efficient and effective accounting system that would respond readily to the needs of internal and external users of financial information. Minimum of 5 years progressive management experience in accounting operations. Strong analytical skill and problem solving. Proficient in Accounting Software, SAP R3 FICO system. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under pressure of completing deadlines and will to work flexible hours including holidays and week ends.

(1) Maintenance Manager
Qualifications: Minimum 6 years work experience as Manager of engineering department, preferably in a hotel. Assists the Chief Engineer in ensuring the efficient and economic operation of the engineering department in support of all other operating departments, supplying services as required to the entire operation, and maintaining equipment, building and grounds in optimum condition. Good problem solving, administrative and interpersonal skills are required. Must be able to work "on-call" seven (7) days a week, including holidays.

Applications may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located on the South Wing. Closing date for applications to be submitted and considered is July 28th.

MOVING SALE

TVs, Washer & Dryer, 6500W Generator, Wide Screen Computer Monitors, Computer Desks, 3x Dining Tables, Power Tools, Kitchen Wares, etc. Pls call 323-1217

IPod & IPhone Repair
We Buy & Sell
Used IPod & IPhone
Please call 233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

QQ Car Rental, San Antonio
M&J Beauty Salon
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

CAR FOR SALE

1997 Honda CRV New Paint, Clean, New Radiator, New Bumper & AC Condenser. Runs Great, Looks New. Good Tires. Strong Engine $5,500 OBO. Pls call 323-1217.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

WHATZIT Solution: Golden girls

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **$29.99** **without Insurance**
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
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North Korean flag blunder mars Olympics start

AP

The North Korean women's soccer team sing their nation anthem before the group G match between Colombia and North Korea, prior to the start of the London 2012 Summer Olympics, Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at Hampden Park Stadium in Glasgow.

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—London Olympic organizers mistakenly displayed the South Korean flag on a jumbo screen instead of North Korea's before a women's soccer match Wednesday, prompting the North Koreans to refuse to take the field for nearly an hour.

The flag flap began during player introductions when a North Korean player was introduced along with a shot of the South Korean flag.

The match against Colombia was delayed for more than an hour, and organizers apologized for the error.

"If this matter couldn't have been resolved, then I thought going on is nonsense," coach Sin Ui Gun said through an interpreter after North Korea won 2-0. "We were angry because our players were introduced as if they were from South Korea, which may affect us very greatly as you might know."

The coach said the organizers corrected the mix-up, although it took some time. Large images of the North Korea flag were put up on both stadium jumbo screens during the delay and the players finally came out.

The team manager refused to have the coach respond to a question of what North Korea leader Kim Jong Un's reaction would have been to the incident.

The London organizers took the blame.

"Today ahead of the women's football match at Hampden Park, the South Korean flag was shown on a big screen video package instead of the North Korean flag. Clearly that is a mistake," organizers said. "We will apologize to the team and the National Olympic Committee and steps will be taken to ensure this does not happen again."

The statement, however, included another gaffe: It failed to refer to the countries by their official Olympic names, causing organizers to reissue the statement using "Republic of Korea" and "Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

Commenting on the flap, the International Olympic Committee pointed to London officials.

"It's a matter for the organizers," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said.

The players walked past reporters after the match still in uniform without stopping. Two were carrying flags - the correct North Korean one.

North Korea and South Korea are bitter rivals. The flag mix-up comes amid high tension on the Korean Peninsula following a North Korean long-range rocket launch in April and repeated threats by Pyongyang to attack the South. Seoul and the U.S. have called the launch a cover for a test of banned long-range missile technology. North Korea says the rocket, which broke apart shortly after liftoff, was meant to put a satellite into orbit.

Wednesday's match started 1 hour, 5 minutes late. Fans were confused at first, then turned to doing the wave and finally started booing as they became increasingly restless.

An announcement was eventually made over the public address system about 20 minutes after the scheduled 7:45 p.m. (1845 GMT; 2:45 p.m. EDT) kick off, apologizing for the delay and saying it "was due to an issue behind the scenes. We're trying to resolve it and we'll keep you updated."

To pass more time, music was pumped from the speakers. Players from both teams finally emerged onto the field about 40 minutes after the match was supposed to begin. The players warmed up again for 10 minutes before they returned inside the tunnel to be led out again for the national anthems.

"It was very difficult after the incident," Colombia coach Ricardo Rozo said. "We had to wait and warm up again. It affected the mood because we were ready for the match.

"I've never had anything happen like this before, where a country can delay a match for an hour."

Flag controversies aren't new at the Olympics. At the 1992 Barcelona Games, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Charles Barkley from the Dream Team draped U.S. flags over their shoulders to hide a rival sponsor's logo on their jackets when they received their gold medals.

At the 2010 Vancouver Games, the Australians displayed a flag with a boxing kangaroo - the mascot for the country's team - in the athletes village, despite an International Olympic Committee rule that usually only permits official national flags to be displayed. The IOC eventually relented.

In 2000, sprinter Cathy Freeman caused a stir when she took a victory lap after winning the 400-meter final at the Sydney Games draped in the Aboriginal flag, which was not recognized as an official national flag by the IOC.

Also in 2000, North and South Korean athletes marched together at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics under the unified Korea flag, sparking a standing ovation. But with relations deteriorating in the years since, each country insists on a separate flag.

Last month, there was another mix-up in Britain. British field hockey officials apologized to the South African women's team for playing the apartheid-era national anthem before one of its matches at the London Cup, a warm-up event for the Olympics.

The event's organizer, Great Britain Hockey, said it was an administrative mistake and offered a "full and unreserved apology."

Cost of London Olympics justified

LONDON (AP)—Two days from the start of the Olympics, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has defended his decision to deliver the games to London, maintaining Wednesday that the event will be value for money as austerity hits other public projects.

Blair helped to deliver the world's biggest sporting showpiece to London in 2005, landing Britain with a 9.3 billion pounds ($14.4 billion) bill for a project taxpayers had to foot as the economic crisis took hold after he left office in 2007.

"Even though it's a lot of money, 9 billion pounds, we have regenerated a whole part of the East End of London," Blair said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press. He pointed to the "great sporting facilities" now in place, and "the excess of 9 billion" the country stood to make.

"If you were to pose the question to (fellow bidders) Paris or Madrid or New York ... 'Would you prefer to be putting on the Olympics right now?' I'm sure they would say 'Yes'," he said.

On securing the Olympics in 2005, a then prosperous Britain predicted it would cost 2.4 billion pounds. But since then the country has plunged into recession, and costs have spiraled as a former east London industrial wasteland was turned into a 226-hectare (560-acre) urban park with the Olympic Stadium at its heart.

Blair said when he left government after a decade in power in 2007 the economy was strong and unemployment was low. "Post the financial crisis, everything looks harder and tougher for Britain," he said. "The question is how we get out of it?"

Blair - appearing at a conference in London organized by Beyond Sport, a group that uses sports to promote social development - described the games as "an opportunity to showcase modern Britain, modern London," to the world. "It'll be a great opportunity for us, which I'm sure we will seize with both hands."

He also described the games as a rare opportunity to unite countries with troubled relations.

"It's really hard to think of an another event that like the Olympics that can bring people together - even if they've got the most profound political disagreements and even if their countries are going through turmoil," said Blair, who serves as special envoy for the Quartet on the Middle East, a diplomatic peace initiative.

He highlighted the participation of female Saudi athletes for the first time, alongside Israelis and people from all over the Middle East. The Olympics is "a fantastic celebration of the fact that it is possible for sport to bring people together in a way that nothing else does," he said.

US *women's soccer team beats France*

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) -- Twice, Hope Solo stretched to her left to stop the ball. Twice, she couldn't quite reach it.

Bang! Boom! Two quick shots, and the U.S. women's soccer team had an early hole at the start of the quest for a third consecutive Olympic gold medal.

Fortunately for the Americans, they have firepower like no other squad in the world, enough to overcome such a deficit and take control, beating France 4-2 Wednesday as they opened their London Games far from London.

Weren't aware that the Olympics were already under way? There's nothing like a come-from-behind win to make people notice.

"There's a lot of other sports going on," deadpanned midfielder Megan Rapinoe. "So we have to catch the attention early."

They did so not only by falling behind, but by finding four dynamic ways to score goals. Abby Wambach used her size and strength to head in a corner kick, speedy Alex Morgan raced ahead to chip one over the goalkeeper, Carli Lloyd nailed a 25-yard rocket, and Morgan cashed in with a simple tap-in after a nice run from Tobin Heath.

"I think there was a lot of nerves and stuff going on in those first minutes," defender Rachel Buehler said. "And we got 'em out. It probably went as bad as it could - and then we were able to turn it around."

Soccer always starts early at the Olympics in order to have time to play a full tournament of games. In this case, the Americans were on the field two days before the opening ceremony and 400-plus miles from the British capital.

And they knew that an early stumble wouldn't be the end of the world. The U.S. gave up two goals in the first four minutes to open the last Olympics in China, losing to 2-0 to Norway. The Americans rebounded to win their final five matches and take the gold.

"After 2-0, I thought about China," coach Pia Sundhage said. "We've been there before and we came back. If you look at the whole tournament in China, we won the gold medal. Now this team is better than 2008. We came back in the game."

While the Americans are favored to take the title again - and even though the U.S. is now 13-0-1 all-time against France - it was hardly a surprise to see the French make it a game. The teams were tied late in the second half in last year's World Cup semifinals before the Americans finished off a 3-1 win, and France entered these Olympics on a 17-game winning streak.

Still, the Americans allowed more goals in the first handful of minutes Wednesday than they had allowed in any game since the World Cup final loss to Japan. Gaetane Thiney (12th minute) and Marie-Laure Delie (14th) found holes in a supposedly impenetrable defense - a potential cause for U.S. concern as the grueling tournament progresses.

"It's not the game we wanted to play," defender and captain Christie Rampone said. "But we've got a lot of games ahead of us to try and get our rhythm back."

Another concern for the Americans: Midfielder Shannon Boxx left in the first half with a hamstring injury and is day-to-day.

"Magic things could happen after a good sleep," Sundhage said. "So we'll just wait and see."

Regardless, other teams in the tournament will surely take notice at how the Americans roared back against the French. Wambach in the 19th. Morgan in the 32nd. Lloyd in the 56th. Morgan again in the 66th. Wambach now has 139 international goals in her pursuit of Mia Hamm's record of 158, and 23-year-old "Baby Horse" Morgan - the second-youngest player on the team - has a remarkable 19 this year alone.

"We didn't stress out," Wambach said. "We just needed that one goal to give us that momentum, and that's what happened. ... I think they might be kicking themselves because they had a really good opportunity to keep the United States at bay. Going up two goals against us is quite a feat, in my opinion, and I think the fact we kind of grinded it out, came back and had four unanswered goals, I think that's demoralizing for any opponent, truthfully."

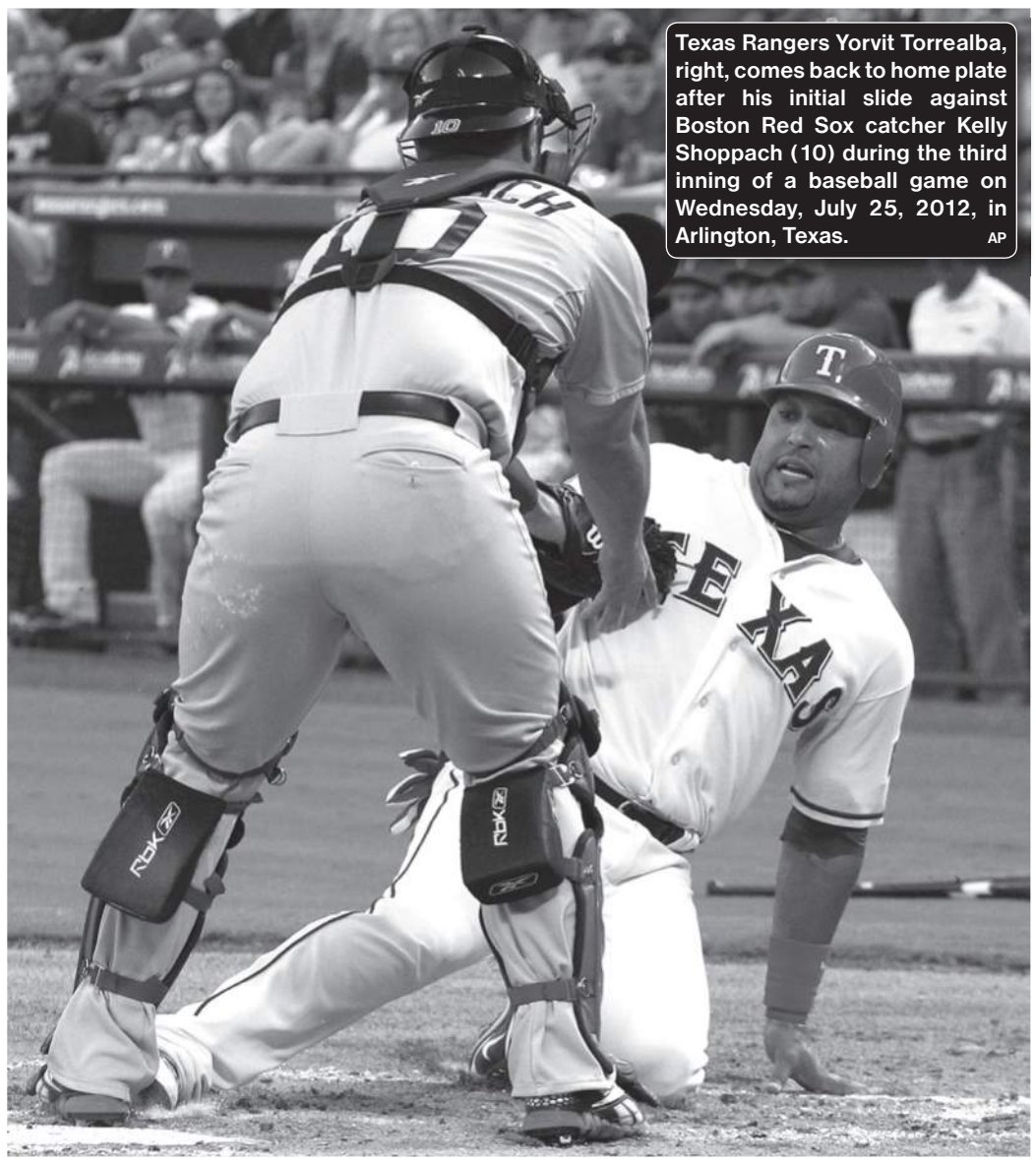
Holland guides Rangers over Red Sox

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Texas' Derek Holland struck out seven and pitched into the eighth inning, guiding the Rangers to a 5-3 win over the Boston Red Sox in the American League on Wednesday.

Holland (7-5) allowed five hits in 7 2-3 innings, and came out of the game soon after a stretch when he retired 20 of 22 batters.

Texas took advantage of a couple of wild throws by Boston pitcher Josh Beckett to score the go-ahead run.

Elvis Andrus was hit on the left forearm by a pitch to reach base with one out in the seventh. He got to third on a single by Adrian Beltre and scored to break a 3-3 tie when Beckett (5-9) threw a wild pitch that bounced several feet wide of the plate.



Texas Rangers Yorvit Torrealba, right, comes back to home plate after his initial slide against Boston Red Sox catcher Kelly Shoppach (10) during the third inning of a baseball game on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, in Arlington, Texas. AP

Yankees 5, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jayson Nix lined a three-run double in the eighth inning as New York rallied for a 5-2 victory over Seattle to complete a disappointing 2-5 West Coast trip on a positive note.

Nix's liner scored Derek Jeter, Robinson Cano and Mark Teixeira. It was Nix's first hit in eight at-bats during the trip.

His hit came off Shawn Kelley, who had relieved Lucas Luetge (1-1) after he loaded the bases.

Seattle got just one hit after the first inning.

Tigers 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Max Scherzer allowed two runs over seven innings to win his fourth straight decision, guiding Detroit past Cleveland.

Quintin Berry had three hits and drove in two runs to help Scherzer (10-5) win for the first time in four career starts at Progressive Field.

Scherzer, whose only mistake came on a two-run homer in the third, held the Indians to three hits and struck out eight.

Rays 10, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, David Price allowed one run over seven innings to earn his major league-leading 14th victory, leading Tampa Bay to an easy win over Baltimore.

Price (14-4) struck out 10 and walked none. He has won a career-high six straight decisions.

Ryan Roberts homered and scored three runs in his debut for the Rays, who scored their 10 runs in the first five innings; more than they'd scored in the previous four games combined.

Orioles rookie Miguel Gonzalez (2-2) gave up a leadoff homer in the first and took the loss.

Athletics 16, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, the visitors inflicted Toronto's heaviest-ever shutout defeat and won a season-high seventh straight game.

Coco Crisp hit two home runs and Yoenis Cespedes had two RBI doubles for the A's, who are 16-2 in July.

Things got so out of hand that the Blue Jays used catcher Jeff Mathis to pitch the ninth inning, and he gave up two runs.

Oakland starter A.J. Griffin (3-0) pitched six scoreless innings, striking out nine. He has a 2.25 ERA.

Angels 11, Royals 6

In Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver won his seventh straight start to tie a career-best, steering Los Angeles past Kansas City.

Weaver (13-1) threw 101 pitches over five innings, allowing three hits.

The Angels won the decider of the three-game series without slugger Albert Pujols, who missed his second game of the season because of a bruised right elbow. He was not missed, as Mike Trout and Torii Hunter both homered.

White Sox 8, Twins 2

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo homered and drove in four runs as Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Minnesota.

Viciedo hit a two-run single in the second inning and added a two-run homer in the fourth, finishing with three hits. The White Sox have won 10 of their past 11 home games.

Chicago starter Jake Peavy (8-7) allowed one earned run in six innings with six strikeouts.

Twins starter Nick Blackburn (4-6) gave up a season-worst eight runs in 4 1-3 innings as the team fell a season-worst 18 games below .500.

Nationals 5, Mets 2

In New York, Washington ace Stephen Strasburg struck out 11 batters in seven innings as the Nationals won 5-2 on Wednesday, completing a series sweep of the free-falling New York Mets.

Strasburg (11-4) gave up four hits in matching his career best for innings, done seven times.

Michael Morse and Danny Espinosa hit consecutive homers, while Espinosa also doubled and scored on one of the Mets' two errors in the Nationals' fifth straight win.

The Mets' 1-11 slide after the All-Star break is approaching their record for futility to start the second half of a season. The 1962 Mets won just one of their first 15 games en route to a 40-120 season.

Cardinals 3, Dodgers 2, 12 innings

In St. Louis, Rafael Furcal singled home the winning run with two outs in the 12th inning as St. Louis edged Los Angeles.

Lance Berkman, who left a day earlier with a bruised knee after being hit by a pitch, drew a one-out walk in the 12th from Jamey Wright (4-3). Matt Carpenter singled with two outs and Furcal drove home pinch-runner Joe Kelly.

The loss dampened the Dodgers debut of Hanley Ramirez. The All-Star infielder, acquired the previous night from Miami, tripled on the first pitch he saw with his new team. He went 2 for 4 with a walk, scoring once and hitting the RBI single in sixth that made it 2-2.

Braves 7, Marlins 1

In Miami, Juan Francisco homered and drove in three runs for Atlanta in the win over Miami.

Michael Bourn and Jason Heyward also homered for the Braves, to back Tommy Hanson (11-5), who pitched around a career-high seven walks and allowed one run in five innings.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (8-9) gave up six runs in 5 1-3 innings, dropping to 0-2 with a 9.64 ERA against the Braves this season.

A Marlins Park-record crowd of 36,711 watched the home team steal seven bases, the most in the major leagues this season.

Padres 6, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Jesus Guzman hit two home runs and Chase Headley had one as San Diego avoided a three-game sweep by San Francisco.

Giants starter Tim Lincecum (4-11) was quickly hooked after he allowed five runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Padres starter Jason Marquis (4-5) gave up one earned run in 7 1-3 innings, striking out eight and walking one.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Kevin Correia won his career-best fifth straight start as Pittsburgh edged Chicago.

Correia (8-6) gave up four hits in six innings, helping Pittsburgh avoid getting swept at home.

Garrett Jones drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out double in the sixth.

Cubs starter Ryan Dempster (5-5) allowed three runs in six innings. His ERA, which had been a major league-leading 2.11, rose to 2.25.

Reds 5, Astros 3

In Houston, Drew Stubbs delivered another huge hit in the ninth inning; a two-out, two-run double that rallied Cincinnati past Houston and to its season-high seventh straight win.

Stubbs came through with the Reds trailing 3-2. A night earlier, he hit a two-run homer in the ninth that wiped out the Astros' one-run lead. Both of Stubbs' hits came against former teammate Francisco Cordero (3-7).

The NL Central leaders sent Houston to its ninth straight loss, tying a season worst.

Phillies 7, Brewers 6, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th innings as Philadelphia rallied in its last at-bat for the fourth straight day, edging Milwaukee and completing its first three-game sweep of the season.

John Mayberry Jr. walked with one out in the 10th against Francisco Rodriguez (2-6). Eric Kratz followed with a double. Carlos Ruiz hit a sacrifice fly to tie it. Rollins hit an RBI single.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Jeff Francis pitched 6 1-3 strong innings, steering Colorado past Arizona and avoiding a three-game sweep.

Francis (3-2) allowed two runs and one walk in his longest outing of the season.

Wilin Rosario hit a two-run homer for the Rockies.

The Diamondbacks overall winning streak ended at five games while its home streak ended at eight games.

Ramirez follows Sanchez out of Miami

NEW YORK (AP)—The Marlins are trading stars, just like they did following their championships in 1997 and 2003. Team president David Samson says this exodus is different.

"A fire sale I guess comes after a World Series victory," he said Wednesday. "I don't know how you would call it a fire sale to trade players of team that's underperforming so spectacularly. So for us, we are just doing everything we can to win more games."

Former NL batting champion Hanley Ramirez became the latest player to leave, traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday with left-handed reliever Randy Choate for right-hander Nathan Eovaldi and minor league pitcher Scott McGough.

On Monday, the Marlins sent pitcher Anibal Sanchez and infielder Omar Infante to the Detroit Tigers for pitching prospect Jacob Turner and two minor leaguers.

"When we put the team together, none of us had any idea that we would be underperforming en masse," Samson said during a telephone interview. "It's not just one player. It is all players. So one of the hardest things to do is look in the mirror and say that we didn't get it right, and that's what we did. We want to restructure because we want to win games."

As the team prepared to move into its new $634 million retractable-roof ballpark, Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria hired Ozzie Guillen as manager last fall and committed $191 million in a five-day span during the offseason to sign All-Stars Jose Reyes, Mark Buehrle and Heath Bell. The team agreed to star in a Showtime reality series, "The Franchise."

In their colorful new uniforms, the Marlins were 31-23 through June 3, just percentage points out of first place, then lost 17 of their next 20 games. They are 45-53, 13 1/2 games out of first place and just a half-game above last.

Samson said president of baseball operations Larry Beinfest approached Loria and Samson after the Marlins lost two of three at the even-worse Chicago Cubs last week.

"He didn't feel as though things were trending properly for us to keep the team as is and make the playoffs," Samson said.

Miami might not be done, with pitcher Josh Johnson and Bell also trade possibilities before Tuesday's deadline to make swaps without waivers.

"Be careful with what you think, what you say, and how you smile because you might be next," Guillen said. "That's the way it has to go if you don't perform. That's business."

After winning the 1997 World Series, the Marlins jettisoned high-priced stars Moises Alou, Kevin Brown, Al Leiter, Robb Nen, Jeff Conine and Devon White. They won the Series again in 2003, then allowed Ivan Rodriguez, Ugueth Urbina, Derrek Lee, Mark Redman, Braden Looper and Juan Encarnacion to depart.

The 28-year-old Ramirez is hitting .249 with 14 home runs and 49 RBIs after going 2 for 4 with a triple, RBI single and walk in the Dodgers' 3-2, 12-inning loss at St. Louis. That's a steep decline from his big season in 2009, when he hit a league-leading .342 with 24 homers and 106 RBIs.

Broncos report to camp, hope to provide healing

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) —The Denver Broncos reported to camp Wednesday hoping to lift the spirits of a community in mourning over the movie theater massacre in neighboring Aurora.

Several players visited hospitalized survivors and medical personnel in the days after a gunman in full body armor opened fire during the midnight premiere of the new Batman movie, leaving 12 dead and 58 injured.

Coach John Fox said the Broncos will do what they can to provide a measure of comfort to a heavy-hearted community, a role he's familiar with from his time with the New York Giants during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Well, we're going to do our absolute best and we understand the responsibility that comes with being in the Broncos organization," Fox said. "This region, city, state has great passion for the team, there's no doubt. I think our players will feel that responsibility and it's something that we'll talk about most definitely later today in our team meeting.

"I was in New York when 9-11 occurred and a lot of the victims really looked to us and (now, others) will look to us here in Denver, for some uplifting times."

AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning waves as he reports to NFL football training camp, Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at the team's headquarters in Englewood, Colo.

Quarterback Peyton Manning called eight of the wounded Sunday and Monday while a dozen of his teammates, decked out in their orange jerseys, visited hospitalized patients and those who were treating them.

Some of those same players had gathered a few weeks ago to honor the firefighters who were battling Colorado's deadly wildfires that destroyed hundreds of homes.

"Well, for some negative things that do happen to occur, our guys do a whole lot of good and that was part of that, whether it was the fires or this recent tragedy," Fox said. "I'm very proud of them. They were out there, they want to give back and they want to somehow lift the spirits."

Among the players making visits to hospitals in recent days was Pro Bowl pass rusher Elvis Dumervil, who was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon following a traffic dispute in Miami where a witness said he flashed a gun in his waistband during a confrontation with a female driver.

Dumervil met with the media Wednesday but said he couldn't talk about his case: "I know you guys have a lot of questions, but out of respect for the investigation, there's not much I can say," he said.

Whether or not charges are filed, Dumervil could find himself subject to a suspension by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. He said he hasn't heard from the commissioner.

"Well, I think you're obviously disappointed any time you're involved in a situation like that as an organization," Fox said. "Like any situation you're involved in, you have to gather the information, find out to the best you can the facts and then let the process run itself and the truth eventually comes out."

The Broncos already are preparing for the extended absence of linebacker D.J. Williams, their top tackler, who is facing a six-game drug suspension and a drunken driving trial next month that could sideline him even longer.

"I think it weighs a little bit heavier on the fans' minds because looking at those guys, they're starters, they are key players," cornerback Tracy Porter said. "It weighs on our minds, too. But we also have the confidence in the guys that back them up at the positions."

The Broncos' first practice is Thursday morning and it'll be the first chance for the public to get a glimpse of Manning in orange and blue.

He joined the Broncos in March after 14 seasons in Indianapolis. The Colts released him after he missed all of last year with a nerve injury in his neck that caused weakness in his throwing arm. They replaced him with No. 1 overall draft pick Andrew Luck.

The league's only four-time MVP has looked good in offseason workouts at Dove Valley, but questions facing him and the Broncos are how he'll hold up at age 36 and whether he'll be the same player he was before he got hurt and needed four neck operations, including a fusion.

"Peyton's done everything humanly possible, both physically and mentally, to get ready for this," Fox said. "I know he's excited, the rest of the team's excited. He's a tremendous competitor and we're very blessed to have him."

Manning already has had a tangible effect on the Broncos, who jettisoned the popular but confounding Tim Tebow 24 hours after signing Manning to a five-year, $96 million deal.

"When you've won the MVP that many times and you've had the accomplishments on the field that he has, he can't help but have some swagger to him. I think that's contagious," Fox said. "We've said early on that he's the type of player that raises all boats, from how they practice, how they approach practice, I'm talking about his teammates. He's a very unselfish guy, a great teammate and that should be a very positive influence on our team."

The Broncos won the middling AFC West last season at 8-8 when they were expected to finish last. Now, expectations are that they'll not only win the division again but also go deep in the playoffs.

One more brand new car, $20K at stake at TOC

Next month's17th Annual Tournament of Champions has added one more brand new car and $20,000 as hole-in-one prizes.

Joeten Motors will be giving away a brand new 2012 Ford Fiesta, bringing the total of brand new cars that can be won in the TOC to three. Microl Toyota is offering a 2013 Toyota Venza, while Triple J Motors is handing a 2013 Hyundai Elantra.

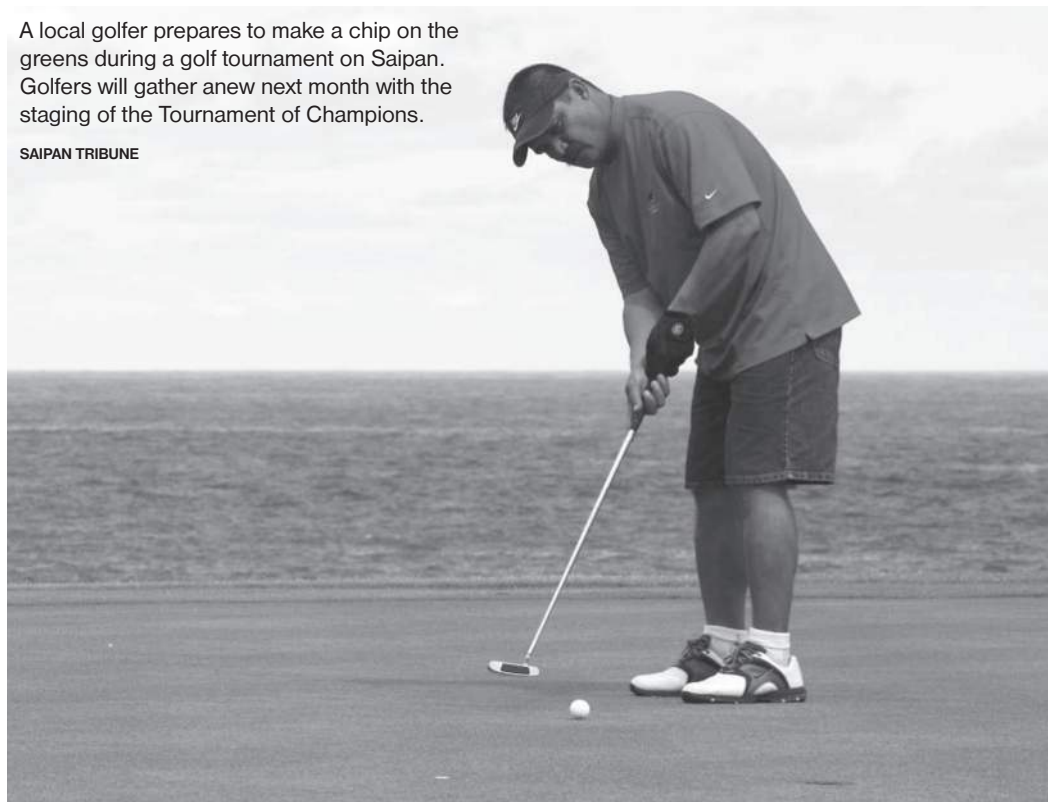
For the cash prizes, Bank of Hawaii has thrown in $20,000 to go with AON Insurance's $50,000 on each day both on the west and east courses of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

This year's TOC will be held on Aug. 4 and 5 with over $300,000 at stake in the two-day tournament.

Entry fee is only $175.00 and it includes two days of golf and entry to the awards banquet which will be held on Aug. 5 at Laolao Bay's The Grill Restaurant immediately following the tournament.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The Ladies Low Net first through third places will receive trophies.



A local golfer prepares to make a chip on the greens during a golf tournament on Saipan. Golfers will gather anew next month with the staging of the Tournament of Champions.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Like in its past 16 editions, proceeds from the TOC will be used for beautification projects in the CNMI.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort SAIPAN, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beatification of the Port to Park pathway.

This year's TOC is supported by Platinum sponsors DFS Galleria, Marianas Visitors Authority, and LaoLao Bay Golf Resort. Gold sponsors include AON Insurance, Docomo Pacific, Microl, Y's Enterprises, Nike Golf, and Triple J Motors.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CFL holds fun run tomorrow

The Commonwealth Football League is holding a fun run tomorrow along Beach Road.

Registration is only $5, which includes a ticket in the post-race raffle drawing. Refreshments will also be available to the runners at the start and finish line.

The course starts near the old Oleai Beach Bar & Grill parking lot and stretches north to the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road, and back.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the CFL's anticipated three-game tackle football series, which starts here at home at the Airport field with the CNMI players facing the Philippine Punishers on Oct. 20.

The CNMI delegation will then travel to the Philippines for a rematch with the Punishers on Nov. 10 and then returns home for a final match against a rival squad from Guam, on Dec.1.

"We are putting on this fun run to help get a jump start to the game day preparations. As many people know, the field needs work, the uprights need to be rehabbed and there are an awful lot of uniforms that need to be purchased," said fun run organizer Brad Ruszala in an email alast Wednesday.

Show time is set for 6:30am with a 7:30am start. Various prizes from IT&E and other sponsors will be up for grabs. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

TSUNAMI

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40.05 seconds, just one second behind Akimaru's 39.05 seconds.

"For the new season, we will have the NMSF sanctioning our swim meet almost every month. Every meet, Tsunami Saipan will try its best to set new records," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

Kimura added that other Tsunami Saipan swimmers also have their goals next season.

"Tsunami swimmers aim for higher US standard times. It's easy to get C and B times, so they will be aiming for A to triple A. They also have to update their personal best times after each meet," the head coach said.

FIRST

From Page 32

start in Day 1 on June 17 with his 268 pinfalls before settling for 175, 205, and 145 in the last three games. He returned in Day 2 of the roll-offs on June 18, but his four-game total of 723 pinfalls were enough only for the No. 5 spot.

Raymond Zapanta joined Omechelang and Angeles in the Top 3 after carding 770 pinfalls in Day 2. Seven other bowlers battled and lost to Angeles in the race for the June King crown.

With the June victory, Angeles joined January King's Robert Talavera, February and May's Raphael Zapanta, March's Percy Omechelang, and April's Raymond Zapanta in the winners circle.

In the Queen of the Lanes, Gloria Omechelang made it to the company of January winner Yho Villavicencio, February and March's Diane Camacho, April's Lala Taitano, and May's Ron Cal.

Omechelang bested nine other female keglers last month to take her first Queen of the Lanes tiara. She bowled in both days of last month's roll-offs and her Day 1 score (654 pinfalls) was undefeated, as Mel Regis only managed to collect 642 pinfalls in Day 2. Villavicencio also competed in the second day and settled for third place after tallying 633 pinfalls.

Omechelang had her best showing in the first day in Game 3, posting 187. She recorded 158, 138, and 171 in the three other games. On Day 2, Omechelang only scored 95 in Game 1, but finished strong in the last three games with her 115, 161, and 189.

Bowlers are allowed to compete for two days in the monthly roll-offs, but only the higher score is counted.

Meanwhile, MJ Aldan extended his streak in the Fiji Water Prince of the Lane to four after winning the June plum.

Aldan earned 638 pinfalls in four games, beating John Taisacan by 10 pinfalls. Angel Iglecias and Ryan Batac completed the field and scored 521 and 486, respectively.

Marion McKenzie, who won the first two monthly tournaments, missed last month's event.

July roll-offs this weekend

SBA's July tournament will take place this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Entrance fee for the King and Queen contests is only $15 and $10 for the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes.

Only the first 60 players to register will be allowed to play. Prizes will depend on the number of entries and women's division will only have a cash prize if at least 10 players are entered.

Saturday's roll-off begins at 6pm, while Sunday's starts at 3:30pm.

SBDC

From Page 32

(against the New Direction Bellebers and The Losers) to move a win away from a return trip to the finals.

In the semifinals of the winners bracket, SBDC continued its streak to gain the first finals berth, while Rambo's Commandoes dropped to the losers bracket. Then Rambo's Commandoes forced a rematch with SBDC after eliminating eventual third placers The Losers in knockout match.

Other teams that joined last week's laser tag tournament were Taga Team, The Pyoung Shins, Finance Team, and The Killers.

Laser tag, according to Wikipedia, is a recreational activity where players attempt to score points by tagging targets, typically with a hand-held infrared-emitting targeting device. In the PIC tournament, two teams with three members apiece dueled in a three-minute play with the team to first capture the flag of the opposing squad and bring it back to home base declared the winner. A player that pulls out the flag of the opposing team, but gets laser tag once is thrown out of the park. A player's infrared-emitting gun is automatically turned off once the opposing player hits it. Players can avoid being laser tag by hiding on various bunkers scattered at the park. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

UPSET

From Page 32

of play before notching three in the final frame. Chutima and Melissa Borja, and Ratree Ditsiwet added one goal each in the second half, bringing Baked Girls' total in seven games to 18.

MEN'S
Wild Bill's 9, Go Green Team 3

The lone men's game played last Wednesday also had lopsided results with Wild Bill's downing Go Green Team.

Wild Bill's was ahead by only one at halftime, 2-1, before breaking away in the second half. Jack Thoensaket scored Wild Bill's twin goals in the first half and exploded for four more in the second to lift the team to the easy win.

Angelo Guevarra gave Go Green Team its only goal in the first half, while Raphael Zapanta and Kenneth Domingo chipped in one each in the second half.

Besides Thoensaket's four goals in the second half, Wild Bill's also drew contributions from Tanapon Unsa (two goals) and Adul Detdon and Kai Khamka, who nailed one goal apiece.

Wild Bill's remained undefeated in five games and padded its goals total to 59, just two short of Godfather's (4-0-1) collection.

Go Green Team absorbed its fifth loss in as many games and has scored only eight goals while allowing its foes 56 goals so far.

YOUTH
Astig 9, Thundercats 3
Astig 4, IT&E 0

In the boys U18 division, Astig routed the Thundercats.

Unsa drained five goals in his first game of the night to power Astig to its fourth win in as many matches. Jeff Palacios added two, while Kenneth Domingo and Joshua Galarion logged one each.

Astig had the game in the bag as early in the first half when Unsa made four goals and Galarion also scored for their 5-1 advantage. Juanito Tiamzon recorded the Thundercats' lone goal in the first half and added one more in the second. Don Cabrera nailed the other goal for the Thundercats, who fell to a 2-0-3 slate.

In the U14 division, Astig blanked IT&E to post its first win after drawing the first two matches against the latter.

Palacios gave Astig two goals, while Billy Hinson and Galarion chipped in one each.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	39	.602	—
Baltimore	51	47	.520	8
Tampa Bay	51	47	.520	8
Boston	49	50	.495	10 1/2
Toronto	48	49	.495	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	53	45	.541	—
Detroit	53	45	.541	—
Cleveland	49	49	.500	4
Kansas City	41	56	.423	11 1/2
Minnesota	40	58	.408	13

West Division

Texas	58	39	.598	—
Oakland	53	44	.546	5
Los Angeles	54	45	.545	5
Seattle	43	57	.430	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	58	39	.598	—
Atlanta	54	44	.551	4 1/2
New York	47	51	.480	11 1/2
Miami	45	53	.459	13Ω
Philadelphia	45	54	.455	14

Central Division

Cincinnati	58	40	.592	—
Pittsburgh	55	42	.567	2 1/2
St. Louis	52	46	.531	6
Milwaukee	44	53	.454	13 1/2
Chicago	40	57	.412	17 1/2
Houston	34	65	.343	24 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	55	43	.561	—
Los Angeles	53	46	.535	2 1/2
Arizona	49	49	.500	6
San Diego	42	58	.420	14
Colorado	37	60	.381	17 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SSS FUTSAL SUMMER LEAGUE

U18 Boys

	W	D	L	GF
Astig	4	0	0	52
IT&E	2	0	1	27
Thundercats	2	0	3	11
Mean Machine	0	0	4	4

U14 Boys

IT&E	1	2	0	8
Astig	0	2	1	4

Women's

Xerox	5	1	2	38
Shirley's	4	1	1	26
Wild Bill's	3	2	1	17
Baked Girls	3	1	3	18
IT&E Awesome	1	0	4	7
Mellow Yellow	0	1	5	10

Men's

Wild Bill's	5	0	0	59
Godfather's	4	0	1	61
IT&E	1	0	2	16
Shirley's	1	0	3	29
Go Green	0	0	5	8

Sasamoto swipes Amigo's July Ace award

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Felix Sasamoto took top honors in Amigos Golf Club's two competitions this month to take the July Ace plum.

Sasamoto first ruled the qualifying tournament on July 8, beating 13 other players and then topped the field anew in last Sunday's competition at the Kingfisher Golf Links

In the qualifier, he posted a gross score of 84 that adjusted into a field low net of 65. Dan Quitugua scratched a raw 80 and ended up qualifying just a stroke behind Sasamoto, while John Matsumoto penciled in a gross 86 that earned him the third spot after posting a 68 net.

Other qualifiers were Sherlyn Jones (89 gross/73 net), Frank Sablan (81/73), Diding Hocog (99/75), Joe Sablan Jr. (92/75), Joe Tudela (87/75), and Dr. Larry Hocog (97/80).

Sasamoto

Last Sunday's final round took place under a continuous drizzle, but 11 players still braved the tough weather.

However, the 10 of them could not catch Sasamoto, who had his gross 96 shaved down to net 77 that was good enough to nab the win. He finished with a 142, seven strokes in front of co-runners-up Matsumoto and Frank Sablan. Matsumoto grossed 99 last Sunday for a 81 net, while Sablan carded a raw 84 that worked into a 68 net.

Diding Hocog duplicated her qualifying mark and settled for fourth place with a total of 150, while other notables included Jones (155), Tudela (157) and Dr. Larry Hocog (169).

Sasamoto joins January Ace Sablan Jr., February's Doll Yamagishi, March's Ben Jones Sr., April's Ben Jones Jr., May's Lorraine Babauta, and June's Terry Guerrero in the monthly winners circle.

All monthly winners will qualify for the Amigo Ace of Aces tournament where a hefty cash prize and bragging rights for one year are at stake. The Ace of Aces winner will also have his/her name inscribed on the club's perpetual trophy, which he/she can keep until it is handed off to next season's winner.

There are over 20 active Amigo members and new players are always welcome.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, Joe Sablan Jr. at 322-1177 or Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732.

Emmanuel, other winning boats recognized

A 942-lb. blue marlin caught on July 14, 2012 has set a new record for the Saipan International Fishing Tournament, winning the tournament grand prize and besting the 1997 record of 624.34 lbs. pacific blue marlin.

The mighty marlin was brought in by captain Mike James and anglers Frank James, John Hattig, and George Arriola of the vessel *Emmanuel* of Guam. The fish was too large to haul aboard the vessel and had to be towed to the weigh station at Smiling Cove Marina. The boat earned $10,000 cash for the record-breaking fish.

The 28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament was held on July 14 and 15, and attracted 50 boats from the region.

In the total weight category, *Luka & Ben* weighed in at first place with 217.60 lbs. The vessel was captained by Rick George with anglers Ben Fitipol, Steve Igisair, Melvin Aldan, Phillip Aldan, and Mike George aboard.

Placing in the bill fish category were vessels *Magnificat* (335.50 lbs.), *Carmelita* (243.50 lbs.), and *Fish Hunter* (211.65 lbs.).

Top winners in the yellowfin category were *Saint James* (43.30 lbs.), *CM-0086-PU* (34.25 lbs.), and *San Juan II* (33.35 lbs.).

Wahoo category winners were *Keilani Ko* (32.15 lbs.), *Padre de Familia* (30.75 lbs.), and *Rose Marie* (30.60 lbs.).

The Top 3 place in the mahi category went to *Saint Andrew* (26.65 lbs.), *Debbie I* (8.55 lbs.), and *Mizuwari* (8.15 lbs.).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Derby enthusiast Martin Duenas, in red, of Saipan poses with the record-breaking 942-lb. marlin caught during the 28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14.

In the skipjack category, *CM-0886-PU* placed first again (18.95 lbs.) and *Victoria* came in second (18.80 lbs.). Third place went to *Lady Gora*, who tied with Padre de Familia at 18.60 lbs. but checked in first on Day 1.

The Saipan International Fishing Tournament is organized annually by the Saipan Fishermen's Association. This year's co-sponsors and supporters included the Marianas Visitors Authority, MARPAC, Chong's Corporation, National Parks Service, Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market Inc., Saipan Industrial Gas Inc., Pacific Marine Resources Institute, JWS Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc., Joe's Bar/PBIC, Joeten Motors Company, Delta Air Lines, Pacific Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, J.E.T. Holding Company Inc., McDonald's, Micronesian Woodcrafts, NTT Docomo Pacific, Microl Corporation, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods:

Car Quest, Pacifica Insurance, Triple B Forwarders, NMC-Cooperative Research &

Education Service (CREES), NMC-Community Development Institute (CDI), Micronesian Marine, Marianas Resort, Shenanigans, Hyatt Regency Saipan Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan Sea Ventures, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Seafix, Congressman Joseph Guerrero, DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios, Div. of Fish and Wildlife, Smiling Cove Marina, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, Senator Pete Reyes, Joeten Super Store, Department of Public Safety (Boating/Traffic Division), Coastal Resoureces Management (CRM), and the Emergency Management Office ***(MVA)***.

All set for Rota Cliff Fishing Derby

Fishermen from throughout the Marianas are gearing up for the 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby set for this weekend.

Organizers say competitors from Saipan, Tinian, and Guam are anticipated to join fishermen from Rota for the annual event with last year's winners also returning.

Mother Nature is also lending a hand to make the event a success.

"The weather during this year's event will most likely be calmer than the previous derby event," said Sandra Atalig, acting manager of roads & grounds maintenance at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office in Rota. "However, we encourage all participants to gear up and take precautionary measures while fishing on the cliff lines."

The designated derby fishing sites are As Matmos, Malilok, and Pona Point. Registration is $30. Fishermen age 16 and younger are free.

Derby check-in will be at 4 p.m. on July 27 at Guata Beach Park, followed by orientation and the start of the derby at 5:30 p.m. The derby will end at 12 noon on the final day.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the Top 4 finishers in the categories of biggest fish and total weight ($600 first place, $300 second place, $200 third place, and $100 fourth place).

The Top 4 finishers in the most variety category will be receiving in-kind donations from Ambros Inc.

"Fishing is fun for everyone of all ages," said Atalig. "Don't let your summer end without experiencing it. We invite everyone to come and make this sporting event a memorable one."

The weekend event is co-sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, and Ambros Inc.

Weigh-ins will be at each fishing site in the morning and evening of July 28 and on the morning of July 29. Reserving spots before the derby begins will not be allowed.

For complete rules or to register, contact Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com or Martin Duenas at 1.670.664.3200 or mduenas@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Triggers, Incredribles win SBA 8-Ball debuts

Bammy's Bar & Restaurant's Triggers toasted a shorthanded 19th Hole Bar Titans squad, 15-0, at home for a welcomed head start in the Saipan Billiards Association's 2012-2013 Summer/Winter Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League last Tuesday.

In other results, IT&E's defending Bud Cup champion Incredibles went into Poseidon Bar & Grill and defeated Crazy 8, 10-5; Yuichiros Printing snuck past the Docomo Pacific Home Boyz of Joe's Steakhouse, 8-7, at home in Oceanside Bar & Grill; and the two-time champion IT&E Voyagers suited up for SOS Bar & Grill and nipped the Blue Ice Hustlers, 8-7, in a road match held at Utopia Sports Bar.

This 2012-2013 Summer-Winter season marks SBA's 15th edition.

This season, 14 teams have been divided into two divisions. The other six teams faced off in last night's Thursday League opener; details will be released this weekend.

The Thursday matchups included 19th Hole Bar's Titans II hosting Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS, Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack waving over Bammy's Equalizers, and the Waterfront's Eight It! hailing 19th Hole's Eagles. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of the IT&E Incredibles pose for a group photo before their season-opening game against host team Crazy 8 at Poseidon Bar & Grill in the SBA 2012-2013 Summer/Winter Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

North Korean flag blunder mars Olympics start
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Holland guides Rangers over Red Sox
PAGE 29

Upset in women's futsal league

A Baked Girls striker stops the ball during their game against Xerox in the women's division of the SSS summer futsal league last Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Baked Girls pulled off a upset over frontrunner Xerox, 4-0, in the women's division game in the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

With the big win, Baked Girls improved to a 3-1-3 win-draw-loss record and retained the No. 4 spot in the six-team field with its 10 points, just one point behind third placer Wild Bill's (3-2-1). Xerox fell to a 5-1-2 card and still holds the No. 1 spot, but has a slim lead over Shirley's Coffee Shop (4-1-1). IT&E Awesome (1-0-4) and Mellow Yellow (0-1-5) complete the league.

Baked Girls cruised to a shutout win after going full blast on offense in the second half. Baked Girls made only one goal, courtesy of Coquina Teregeyo, in the first 25 minutes

See UPSET on Page 30

First victory for Angeles, Omechelang

Angeles

Omechelang

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament continued to have a balance competition as another pair of first time winners emerged in the June contest at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Getting their first monthly crown for the 2012 season were Raymond Angeles and Gloria Omechelang.

Angeles only joined the second day of the June roll-offs and his four-game total of 829 pinfalls surpassed the record of Day 1 leader Percy Omechelang (793 pinfalls). Angeles knocked down more than 200 pins on two occasions (212 in Game 2 and 225 in Game 4) to add to his 193 and 199 in Games 1 and 3 for an average of 207.25 pinfalls. He was the lone participant in the June roll-offs to average 200-plus pinfalls and totaled at least 800.

Omechelang had a strong

See FIRST on Page 30

Tsunami Saipan targets more records next season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai, seen here competing in the 200m individual medley in a local meet in April, aims to break CNMI age group records in the 13 to 14 age group next season.

Five Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members will be eyeing more CNMI records when the 2012-2013 season begins in September.

Kensuke Kimura, the most senior member of the club, is looking to break two CNMI national marks and three age group records. The 16-year-old swimmer is hoping to eclipse the 200m backstroke mark (2:19.89) of Saipan Swim Club's Seung Gin Lee (July 25, 2003). Kimura's best time in the event is 2:20.05.

In the 100m backstroke, the Grace Christian Academy student's PBT is 1:05.70, just less than a second behind the CNMI national record (1:04.80), which Lee also posted on July 25, 2003.

In the boys 15 to 16 age group records, Kimura is aiming to surpass the times of Jonathan Sakovich and Rezne Wong. In the 400m freestyle, Sakovich's 25-year-old record stands at 4:21.70 (May 10, 1987), more than one second ahead of Kimura's PBT of 4:23.02. In the 1,500m freestyle, Kimura has 17:58.26 compared to Sakovich's 17:41.15 (Feb. 14, 1987). In the 100m breaststroke, Kimura's PBT reads at 1:12.52, less than a second behind Wong's record of 1:12.19 seconds (Feb. 2, 2008).

In the girls 13 to 14 age group, Angel Marie Tan looks to break the two breaststroke records of SSC's Jill Pierce. Tan has 1:22.12 in the 100m breaststroke, less than a second behind Pierce's 13-year-old record (1:21.64 /June 3, 1999). In the 200m breastroke, Pierce's mark stands at 2:53.91 (June 5, 1999) against Tan's 2:56.57.

In the boys 13 to 14, Kaito Yanai is hoping to shatter the 16-year-old record of Justin Pierce in the 200m breaststroke (2:42.35/May 19, 1996). Yanai's current PBT reads at 2:49.79.

Miku Tammy, who holds 11 marks in the girls 9 to 10 age group, is moving to the 11 to 12 category and will work on setting new records in the 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly. SSC's Myana Welch owns the 100m backstroke mark in the girls 11 to 12, posting 1:19.76 on Jan. 12, 2002. Tammy's PBT right now is 1:21.49. In the 100m butterfly, SSC's Xenavee Pangelinan still holds the record at 1:18.17 (Jan. 27, 1996), more than a second ahead of Tammy's PBT (1:19.88).

Ryuto Yanai, former U8 swimmer, is also moving to an older age group (9 to 10) next season and is targeting the 50m backstroke record of SSC's Kento Akimaru. Ryuto Yanai's PBT is

See TSUNAMI on Page 30

SBDC tops Laser Tag tourney

Saipan's Best Dance Crew ruled the 2012 Laser Tag Tournament, besting nine other teams in last weekend's competition at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

SBDC, which was composed of Keoni Ichihara and Dwayne and Bam Castro, went undefeated in the double-elimination tournament, clinching the championship after beating Rambo's Commandoes in the finals.

It was Rambo's Commandoes second bridesmaid finish as last year they fell to two-time winner and Wild Dogs' Jesse Peredo, Derek Gersonde, and Matt Iguel. Rambo's Commandoes were composed of Eric, Will, and Lady Johnson.

The eventual 2012 champion was grouped in Pool A and advanced to the second round after beating Y.O.L.O. Next up for SBDC was the Oleai Shooters and the former won anew to march into the semifinals against Pool B's Rambo's Commandoes, which also swept their first two games

See SBDC on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of SBDC pose for a photo before the start of their game in the Pacific Islands Club's laser tag tournament last Saturday.